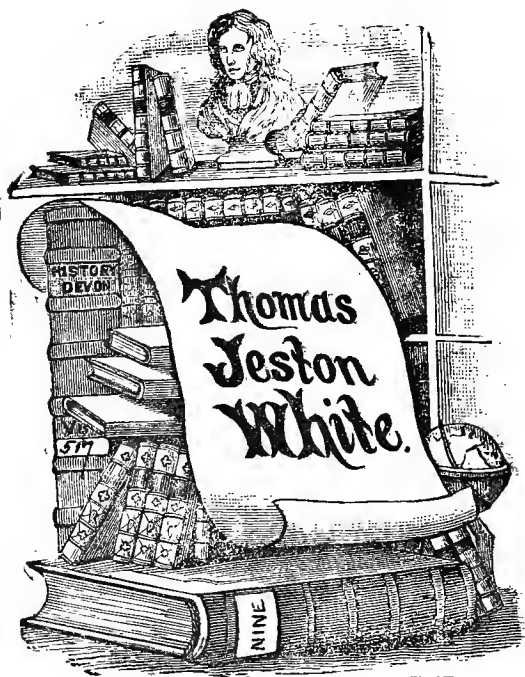






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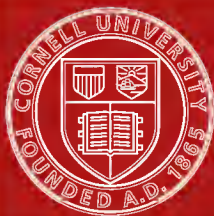
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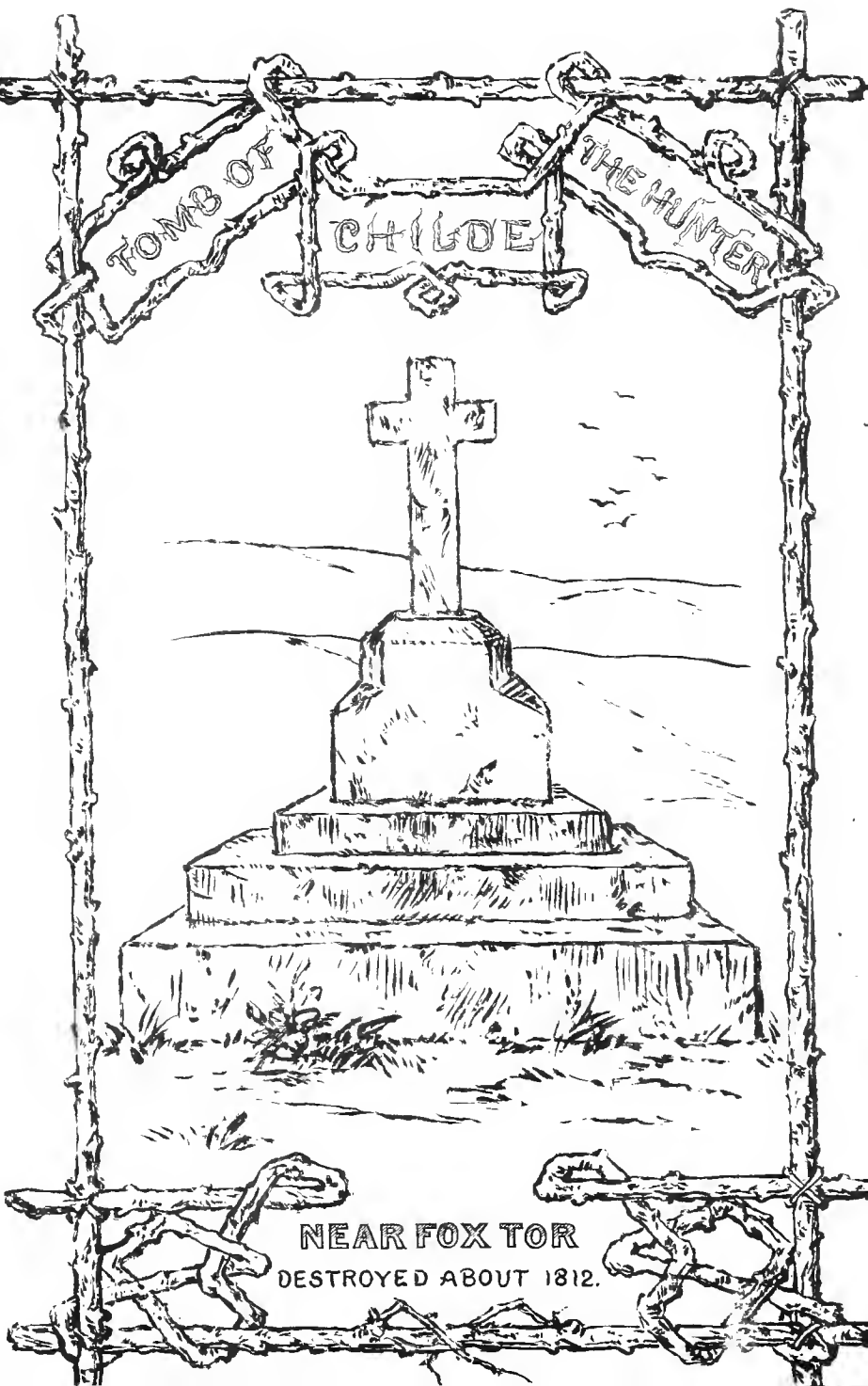
THE ANCIENT CROSSES OF DARTMOOR.



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TOMB OF

CHILDE

THE HUNTER

NEAR FOX TOR
DESTROYED ABOUT 1812.

THE
Ancient Crosses of Dartmoor;

WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THEIR
SURROUNDINGS.

BY
WILLIAM CROSSING.

In many a green and solemn place,
Girt with the wild hills round,
The shadow of the holy Cross
Yet sleepeth on the ground.

RICHARD JOHN KING—*The Forest of the Dartmoors.*

EXETER :
JAMES G. COMMINS, HIGH STREET.
LONDON :
C. ELKIN MATHEWS, 6, VIGO STREET, W.

1887.

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Preface.

An intimate acquaintance with Dartmoor, the result of explorations extending over many years, has enabled me to gather much of interest pertaining to its history and its customs, and a close knowledge of the various objects of antiquity to be found within its borders.

My researches in this region of rocky tor and rushing river I have never tired of pursuing, a love for its dear old hills, extending back as far as memory will carry me, attracting me to its wild solitudes, where, by the side of the stone circle and the moss-covered cairn we seem to stand on the border-land between the present and the dim and distant past.

How much of poetry is there in the memorials of a people who have lived on these hills, and who saw the moor as we see it now ages and ages ago. There is truly a rich reward offered to the student of our antiquities which is denied to those who look with indifference upon the remains of a by-

gone day. The light which the grey stones of the Celts shed around, enabling us to obtain glimpses of a people of olden days, becomes not obscured as we advance to historic times, for when we find the menhir no longer reared upon the heath, and the circle and the dolmen cease to be up-raised, the record is not broken, for the symbol of that faith which is the salvation of fallen man, rough-hewn from the moor-stone block, takes their place, and the lamp is still kept brightly burning.

But these memorials which testify to the presence of men who desired to see by the green paths of the moor the emblem of their religion, have in many instances yielded to the rude buffetings of the wintry blast, or have been cast down by those in whom, in a later day, these rudely fashioned stones could call forth no tender feelings. Too often have I discovered an old cross overturned and all but shrouded from view by the heather springing up around it, its broken shaft and mutilated arms silently upbraiding the carelessness which permitted it to remain prostrate on the ground.

To chronicle the existence of such as were previously unknown and to collect evidence, if such might be discovered, respecting the time and purpose of their erection, as well as of those

of which mention had been made by others, has been to me a very pleasant and congenial task ; and the happy days spent on the breezy hills of the old moor in my search after these relics, which the companionship I enjoyed rendered happier still, will never be forgotten.

My description of these venerable memorials of the days of yore originally appeared in the third volume of the *Western Antiquary*, upon the completion of which the articles were reprinted. Further researches bringing me acquainted with additional facts, I contributed a supplementary article to a later volume of that magazine, since the appearance of which I have been able to add still more to my knowledge respecting these interesting objects of antiquity. The following pages consist of a revision and extension of those articles, together with an Appendix, in which I have given notes of such matters as seemed to me to require it to make the work complete. The accompanying map will be found of great service to such as are not well acquainted with the moor, as it will enable them to identify the situation of all the principal objects and places in its confines referred to in the text.

In the pages of the magazine I have alluded to, I ventured to put forth a plea in behalf of

these old memorials, and asked whether something could not be done to preserve them to us. I pointed out that being links which connected us with a past age we could ill afford to spare them, and that but little trouble would be necessary to re-erect such as were fallen, so that the antiquary might no longer be pained at seeing them occupying an ignoble position.

This appeal was not made in vain, for the Honorary Secretary of the Dartmoor Preservation Association was empowered by that body to take steps in this matter, and to this end communicated with me, and in the summer of 1885 the good work was commenced. A short account of our operations is given in the Appendix. Ere long, I hope to see the whole of these ancient crosses restored to a condition akin to that in which they originally were,—a hope in which I shall be joined by all who are interested in the preservation of our antiquities.

Splattton, South Brent, Devon,
7th March, 1887.

Dartmoor.

The wild and elevated tract of country known as Dartmoor is situated in South Devon, and according to Dr. Berger's report in Moore's history of the county, contains nearly three hundred and fifty square miles of surface. Other authorities, however, estimate it to be considerably less in extent, the difference arising accordingly as the various commons surrounding what is now considered as Dartmoor proper, have been included or not. These commons partake of its character in every particular, and undoubtedly at no distant time formed one with it. There is a large extent of moor-land lying to the eastward of Moretonhampstead and Lustleigh, bounded by the river Teign, which De la Beche in his *Report on the Geology of Cornwall, Devon and West Somerset*, considers to be both geologically and geographically a part of Dartmoor, and it was by including this, and other similar tracts, that Dr. Berger arrived at the estimate he has given

of its size. These portions of moor-land have, however, been cut off by cultivation from the moor proper, and have not been included by the other authorities when making their estimates. In a report to the House of Commons the size of the moor is given as one hundred and thirty thousand acres, or two hundred and three square miles, and this we may consider to be the extent of what is now generally known as Dartmoor; and over which the investigations, the results of which appear in the following pages, extend.

The market towns and principal villages which surround it, and which are situated nearly on its borders, are Okehampton, Chagford, Moretonhampstead, Ashburton, Holne, South Brent, Ivybridge, Cornwood, Plympton, Shaugh, Meavy, Walkhampton, Tavistock, Lydford and Bridestowe. Its most southerly point is at the foot of the Western Beacon above Ivybridge, and the distance from this spot to its northern verge, immediately above the market town of Okehampton, is, as the crow flies, somewhat over twenty-two miles. Its breadth is about ten or twelve miles, though at its widest part, from Black Down on the west to Ilsington Common on the east, it is over seventeen. These distances being from point to point in a straight line, it is needless to say that it would be im-

possible to traverse them without going over a much greater extent of ground.

Dartmoor is a very elevated region, its average level ranging from 1,200 to 1,400 feet, while many of its hills attain an altitude of 1,700 or 1,800 feet, and some over 2,000, the highest summits being on its borders. Most of the hills are crowned with a rugged pile of granite rocks, known as a tor, and frequently assuming grand and fantastic proportions. Numerous rivers take their rise in the vast bogs which are found on many of its highest parts, among which are the Dart, which gives name to the district, the Teign, the Taw, the Tavy, the Avon, the Erme, the Plym, &c., besides a great number of smaller streams. Its principal river, the Dart, is sometimes erroneously stated to have obtained its name from the swiftness of its current, which, however, is not greater than that of many other of the streams on the moor. In all probability it is a corruption of the Celtic word *dwr*, water, which root we find in the names of various rivers in countries peopled by the Celtic tribes.

In many of its lonely and desolate parts the eye can rest upon nothing but a vast stretch of heath, with here and there a rocky tor, peeping over the gloomy looking ridges, a desert waste, from which even the faintest signs of civilization

are absent. In others, deep valleys down which rush foaming torrents over rocky beds, the precipitous sides being clothed with furze and heather, with many a huge granite boulder half hidden in the wild and tangled growth, the numerous tors lifting high their rugged crests and standing like sentinels around.

King John disafforested the whole of the county of Devon, with the exception of Dartmoor and Exmoor, and the former has continued to be a royal forest down to our own day. It is annexed to the Duchy of Cornwall, and is consequently always held by the Prince of Wales, but in the event of there being no male heir apparent it reverts for the time to the crown. Various perambulations have been made from time to time for the purpose of defining the limits of the forest, which lies in the centre of the moor-land region, its boundaries being, in some parts, several miles from the cultivated country, the intervening tract being claimed as common land by the numerous parishes bordering it, which parishes are known as lying within Venville.

A perambulation made in the year 1240 may be seen in Risdon's *Survey of Devon*, but another which was made in 1609 is the one now generally acted upon. The bounds are defined by natural

objects, such as a hill, a tor, or a river, the commons, or Venville Precincts, surrounding it differing in no way from it in appearance. It is divided into quarters, of which the north is the largest.

Ancient customs still survive on Dartmoor. It is a home for our old superstitions and legendary tales,—a place where much that found favour with our ancestors, and which, with questionable taste, is now voted out of fashion, still finds a refuge, and where freedom from all artificiality may be enjoyed. The artist may find there ample employment for his pencil, the disciple of Walton may revel to the full in the pursuit of his art. The geologist, the botanist, or the antiquary have there a rich field in which to indulge their various tastes, and the lover of nature can never tire of the delights afforded by a ramble through the secluded valleys, and over the breezy hills of wild and rugged Dartmoor.

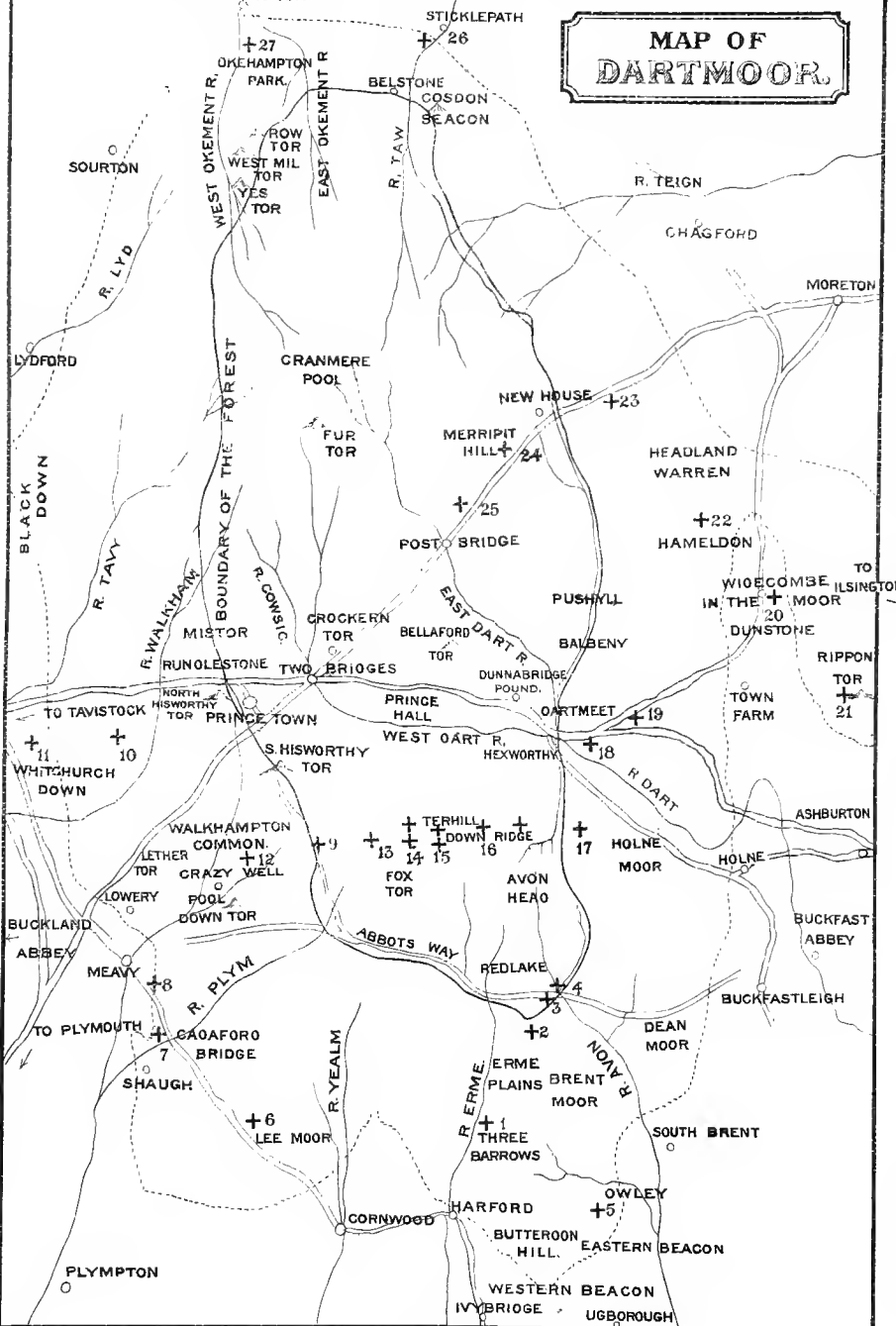
In the accompanying sketch map the situation of the various crosses described in the following pages are designated by a small cross with a reference figure to the Table below, by which its name may be ascertained. The main rivers are marked, also the market towns which are situated on the borders of the moor, and the principal places

named in the work. The central portion enclosed within the thin line represents the forest, and the dotted line defines the limits of the moor, while the double lines show the direction of the high roads which cross it.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Hobajon's Cross. | 15. Crosses on Terhill. |
| 2. Petre's Cross. | 16. Crosses on Down Ridge. |
| 3. Cross formerly at Buckland
Ford. | 17. Horn's Cross. |
| 4. Huntingdon Cross. | 18. The Coffin Stone. |
| 5. Pearl's Cross. | 19. Ouldsbroom Cross. |
| 6. Roman's Cross. | 20. Crosses at Widecombe-in-
the-Moor. |
| 7. Cross near Cadaford Bridge. | 21. Cross on Rippon Tor. |
| 8. Merchant's Cross. | 22. Hameldon Cross. |
| 9. Siward's or Nun's Cross. | 23. Bennett's Cross. |
| 10. The Windypost. | 24. Cross formerly on Merripit
Hill. |
| 11. Cross on Whitchurch Down. | 25. Maggie Cross. |
| 12. Cross on Walkhampton
Common. | 26. Inscribed Stone at Stickle-
path. |
| 13. Childe's Tomb. | 27. Cross at Fitz's Well, Oke-
hampton Park. |
| 14. Crosses in Fox Tor New-
take. | |

OKEHAMPTON

MAP OF DARTMOOR.



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THE
ANCIENT CROSSES OF DARTMOOR.

THE crosses which are to be found on Dartmoor, like most of our Devonshire examples, are of simple form, and cannot boast of the beauty which belongs to some of those existing to the westward of the Tamar. A few only possess any ornamentation, and that in a very slight degree ; and, with one or two exceptions, no inscriptions are to be seen on them.

Their surroundings, however, invest them with a charm peculiarly their own ; for we cannot behold these old lichen-stained and weather-beaten memorials of the past, standing in close proximity to the remains of the rude habitations of the Celts, without contrasting in our minds the dark times when those huts were peopled, with the clear daylight which beamed forth when the cross was planted, and with the blessings which Christianity has spread over the land.

Among the grey tors they stand in solitude—the far-stretching heath on every side—with no sound to break the stillness that reigns around but the rushing of the streams from the rugged hill-sides.

As we gaze upon them, we can let our thoughts stray back to the time when they were first reared, and in fancy may see the wondrous events which have since taken place on the stage of this world's vast theatre. Nor will it fail to strike us how little have all these events affected what we can see around us. The granite tors still lift their lofty heads to the sky, the blossoms of the mountain still wave on the heath, the stream yet pursues its way over its rocky bed, and all is here unchanged. While events which have shaken the outside world, and have decided the fate of nations have been occurring, these hills and valleys, huge rocks and winding streams, have remained as in the days of old, and these venerable stone crosses have been lost in the solitariness of the moorlands.

At early morn when all is fresh and bright, when the dew-drops sparkle on the heather,

“ And drowned in yonder living blue,
The lark becomes a sightless song,”

the impressionable mind will experience a pleasurable emotion at beholding here, far from the haunts of man, the emblem of the Christian faith. At the hour of sunset, when the shades of evening are beginning to settle over the wilds, and we hear that moaning sound so peculiar to the Dartmoor rivers as the twilight approaches, a calm feeling steals over us, which is heightened when, perchance, we find ourselves beside an old granite cross, alone on the heath ; and when night spreads her dark robe over mountain and plain, and the sole light is that which is lent by the pale stars, that form will forcibly

remind us of the power which the religion of the cross has exercised over the darkness of our land, and which it has so happily dispelled.

The hands that fashioned these time-worn relics have long since mouldered in the tomb ; and they themselves are oft-times overturned and shattered, deeply impressing us, as we contemplate their ruin, with the certainty that all the works of man will fall and crumble away before the touch of Time.

It is not difficult to determine for what purpose the crosses on Dartmoor were erected. That some were simple boundary marks is certain, and others were very probably set up to point out the direction of the ancient moor-tracks. It would seem that their position often indicated the point where two roads crossed, or where one diverged from another ; and as these old tracks were in many cases nothing more than a grassy path, and in places scarcely to be distinguished, such marks were of the greatest utility, and no doubt often safely guided the traveller when pursuing his way over the hills of the silent moor.

Hobajon's Cross. In commencing our examination of these crosses we shall direct our steps to Three Barrows, a lofty hill rising high above the left bank of the Erme, where, on the slope near the summit, we shall find the shattered remains of one, lying amid the granite with which the ground is strewn. This hill, which is about two miles to the northward of Harford Church, is crowned with three large cairns, whence its name, and during an exploration of one of them by Mr.

Spence Bate, recorded in the fifth volume, (1872) of the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association*, part of a cross, consisting of one of the arms and the top of the shaft, was found near at hand. This, he, with great probability, supposed to be a portion of one which he states was set up by a jury of survey, empanelled to settle some bounds in this part of the moor about a century and a half before.

He also considered that in it he saw all that remained of a cross which is mentioned on an old map of Dartmoor as Hobajon's Cross, and which is there represented as standing on two steps, and is situated nearly in the middle of a row of upright stones. This row extends from Butterdon Hill, near the Western Beacon above Ivybridge, to within a short distance of Sharp Tor, which overlooks the enclosure known as Piles New-take. At the former place it is seen leading directly from a circle thirty-five feet in diameter, of which the stones, with the exception of two, (and those partially so) are fallen. This encloses a small cairn about twenty feet in diameter, much dilapidated.

It has been supposed that the old map in question dates back as far as 1240, in which year a perambulation of the forest was made, or even earlier; but, as Mr. J. Brooking Rowe points out in his *Cistercian Houses of Devon*,¹ this cannot be the case, because on it there is a representation of the Abbey Church of Buckland, which Abbey was not founded until 1278. He considers it to be of two centuries later date. Further on, I shall bring forward some evidence which I think will show that this view is

¹ *Transactions Devon Association*, vol. vii., p. 345.

the more correct one ; but without going into this question now, it certainly appears from the map, that a cross was standing in the stone-row at the time it was drawn, but I am not so sure that it was ever fixed on steps as it is there represented. Another cross, which I shall notice hereafter, is shown on the map as standing on steps in the same manner, although nothing of the sort is to be seen near it now, so that it is possible that this was nothing more than a conventional mode of the draughtsman to indicate the existence of these crosses, and it was not, perhaps, intended, or considered necessary, to convey a perfectly correct idea of their form.

Mr. Bate accounts for the cross being erected in the stone row on the hypothesis that those who reared it, finding the dark clouds of superstition clinging to the heathen relic, were anxious to plant the symbol of Christianity amid the rude erections of the Pagans. This, indeed, may have been the case, but I am inclined to think it quite as probable that the cross was erected simply as a boundary mark. When the object for which the stone-row was primarily erected was forgotten, it was naturally looked upon as a boundary, and still continues to serve as such, constituting, as far as it extends, the line which separates Ugborough and Harford Moors. As fresh perambulations of the bounds were made, in all likelihood new marks were added, and Hobajon's Cross we may not unreasonably consider to be one of these.

The mutilated cross which is at present to be seen, consists, as stated, of the top of the shaft and

one of the arms only. This arm is ten inches in length, the shaft measuring sixteen inches from its upper surface, and being about fourteen inches in width. As the sides of it, however, are not quite parallel, the width is not the same throughout, but is rather greater at the top. It must have been a massive cross when in its complete state, with a breadth across the arms of about two feet eight inches ; its height, of course, it is impossible to determine. The fracture runs across in an oblique direction from under the remaining arm. One side of the shaft is ten inches in thickness, the other only seven inches. It is now lying on the slope of the hill toward the river Erme, not far from the north-western cairn.

From the absence of any other cross near the spot, I think we may safely conclude that this is the one that the jury, whom Mr. Bate speaks of, erected on one of the cairns on this hill ; and that it is also the old Hobajon's Cross is nearly certain, for, although the existence of this mutilated head is not generally known, the name still lingers here—a small heap of stones at no great distance from the top of the hill being called by the moor-men, Hobajon's Cross.

This point forms the starting place when the bounds of a portion of the moor in this locality, over which the lord of the manor of Ermington exercises certain rights, are perambulated—the first record of such perambulation being in the year 1603.

If the supposition be correct, as no doubt it is, that we now see on Three Barrows a portion of this ancient cross, we know that it must have been

brought from the stone-row, as we have no reason to consider the map wrong in representing it as standing there, but other hands, I think, than those of the jury of survey did this. From the fact of the manor boundary mark bearing the name of Hobajon's Cross, it would seem likely that at one time it was erected there, in which case we should perhaps be inclined to consider that those who were engaged in marking out those bounds, were concerned in the removal of the cross ; but I am of opinion that they were not those who took it from its original position, although it is not impossible that they may have used it as a mark to their boundary.

In the account of Buckfast Abbey in Dr. Oliver's *Monasticon* there is an inquisition on the boundary of Brent Moor, dated 1557,¹ at which time certain rights and privileges pertaining to it were held by Sir William Petre in virtue of his possession of the manor of South Brent. This boundary line was marked by four crosses at certain points ; one on the centre cairn at Three Barrows, one on the cairn known as Western Whitaburrow, a third at Buckland Ford, and a fourth at the confluence of the Avon or Aune with the Western Wellabrook, and they each had the words "Bunda de Brentmore," engraven on their faces. I am inclined to believe that it was for the purpose of serving as a mark to these bounds that Hobajon's Cross was taken from the row of stones, and if it ever stood on the little cairn marking the boundary of the lands over which the manorial rights of Ermington extend, it was

¹ *Monasticon Dioecesis Exoniensis*, p. 378.

taken there from Three Barrows, in which case the jury of survey, to whom Mr. Bate has alluded, must have found it there, and set it up once more upon the great cairn on the hill. There is no trace of any inscription to be seen on the portion which now remains of this interesting relic, and how it became so mutilated it is impossible to say.

I have carefully examined the stone-row on several occasions, but could never find any traces of the steps, as shewn on the map, and, as before observed, it is doubtful whether they ever existed.

On a stone at the extreme end of the row¹ nearest Sharp Tor, and which is much larger than most of the others which compose it, I observed a small incised cross measuring seven inches in height and five and a half inches across. This stone is evidently an addition to the row, but is distinguishable, at a glance, from a modern boundary post. It stands about three and a half feet above the ground, and appears to mark some important point, as it is placed in the middle of a small, rough, circular pavement, about six feet nine inches in diameter. May we not allow that there is a probability that this inscribed stone marks the spot, where, in years long since flown, the old cross was standing, and that it was set up after the removal of the latter as a memorial of it by those who were interested in preserving these particular bounds? I do not forget that the map represents

¹ From its commencement at the circle on Butterdon Hill, to its termination at this stone, the row is 1,791 yards in length. The distance of the centre cairn on Three Barrows from the stone is 2,325 yards.

Hobajon's Cross as being in the centre of the stone-row, and this stone, as I have said, is at its end ; but the row is continued from this point by modern boundary stones, and in all probability was so continued by older ones at the time the map was drawn, so that if the cross really stood on the spot in question, in placing it in the middle of the row, the map would be substantially correct.

There is one consideration we must not overlook, which is, that it would not have been a very difficult task to have removed the cross from Three Barrows, and to have re-erected it in the row, instead of setting up another stone there in its place. But it is not unlikely that it may have been found broken, though perhaps not in such a mutilated state as we see it now, and was no longer in a condition to be placed in its old position.

The view from the commanding height of Three Barrows, or as old records have it, Threberis, is one of great variety and beauty. A large portion of the country lying between the southern frontier of Dartmoor and the Channel is spread out before us like a magnificent panorama, and the most prominent headlands on the South Devonshire coast are plainly visible. On the other side we look into the moor. Away to the northward is seen the boggy land in the neighbourhood of Erme Head, with the distant tors peeping over the dark brown ridges. On our left, the river flows at a great distance below the wind-swept height on which we stand, and Piles Wood is discernible far down the steep, stretching along the bank of the stream.

Before leaving Three Barrows we must not omit to observe the fine track-line which runs up from the East Glaze to the centre cairn, and pursues its course down the slope of the hill towards the little stream that falls into the Erme.

Petre's Cross. Proceeding in a northerly direction we shall make our way towards Western

Whitaburrow, one of the bounds of the forest; and in so doing shall follow the line of posts that mark the boundary of Brent Moor, which boundary appears to be indicated on the old map by a line on which are placed what seems to be meant for three stones.

The cairn which bears the name of Western Whitaburrow is sixty-three yards in circumference, and according to the inquisition alluded to, the second cross marked with the words "Bunda de Brentmore" stood here. Until about the year 1847 it was to be seen erect on the centre of the cairn; but it was then partially destroyed by some workmen in the employ of a company which was formed for the purpose of extracting naphtha from the peat that here abounds, but which was not a success. The works were close to Shipley Bridge, and the peat was taken thither from this spot on tram-waggon; the old tram-road is now in a very ruinous condition, but still serves as a bridle-path.

There being no place of shelter near, the labourers erected a house on the cairn with the stones of which it was composed, and, requiring a large stone as a support for the chimney-breast, they knocked off the arms of the cross and used the shaft for that

purpose. The house has been taken down for several years ; the walls, to the height of about three or four feet, being all that is now to be seen of it, but the shaft of the cross has, fortunately, not been lost. It is now set up on the cairn, and has recently had the broad arrow cut on it by the Ordnance surveyors. It measures four feet in height, and about fifteen inches in width. The end which is now uppermost has had pieces cut from the corners, leaving a sort of shoulder, which has the appearance of having been made to fit into a socket, and I therefore take this to be the bottom of the shaft. The name of it, too, is still unforgotten, for the spot is seldom called by its older appellation of Whitaburrow,¹ but is generally known as Petre's Cross.

Sir William Petre, of whom Prince in his *Worthies of Devon* gives us an account, and who was, as already stated, the possessor of certain rights over Brent Moor, was born at Tor Newton, in the parish of Tor Brian. He was Secretary of State in four reigns, those of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth ; and, it is said of him that

¹ So spelled with the addition of an *e* in the Perambulation of the Forest of 1609 ; in that of 1240, the name is spelled Whyte-burghc. It is Eastern Whitaburrow, however, which is mentioned in these perambulations, and not Western Whitaburrow ; but this would appear to be an error, as the former spot does not form one of the forest bounds, but is situated on Brent Moor. The boundary runs straight from the confluence of the Western Wella-brook and the Avon to Western Whitaburrow. The cairn known as Eastern Whitaburrow is ninety yards in circumference, and twelve yards in height. The name is pronounced with the *i* long, as though spelled White-a-burrow.

in this office he was "smooth, reserved, resolved, and yet obliging." He amassed great wealth derived from the monastic possessions which were granted to him. He died in 1571, and was buried at Ingatestone in Essex.

Cross formerly at Buckland Ford. Our search for the third cross will take us to Buckland Ford—so we shall make our way down the hill in a north-easterly direction, and, passing a bound-stone, shall soon reach the foot of a steep narrow gully, close to which we shall observe an old path, which we shall descend for a short distance to a point where it crosses a small stream which falls into the Avon just below. This is Buckland Ford, but we shall look in vain for the cross. I have carefully searched around the spot, yet have never been able to find it, nor can I learn that any one has ever seen it. Some mining operations appear to have been carried on near the bank of the Avon, and it is possible that the cross may have been destroyed by those who were concerned in them.

The old track which crosses the stream at this ford is called the Abbots' Way, and can be traced from Dean Moor for several miles, passing the source of the Erme, and the head waters of the Plym. It formed a direct means of communication between the abbeys of Buckland and Tavistock on one side of the moor, and Buckfast on the other. The name by which I have always heard it called by the moor-men is Jobbler's or Jobbers' Path, which it doubtless obtained from being used by

the yarn-jobbers in former days. The monks of Buckfast were extensive traders in wool, and this commodity, and yarn spun from it, no doubt often formed the loads which were carried on the backs of horses on this old road. It appears more than probable that it passed near where Princetown now is, for I find that Mr. Burt in his preface to Carrington's *Dartmoor*, published in 1826, states that traces of a trackway called Jobber's Cross were visible across bogs near the prison.

Although we shall be unsuccessful in finding the cross at Buckland Ford, we shall be well repaid for having visited the spot, for the surroundings combine to form a most pleasing picture of a moorland valley, secluded and quiet, closed in by hills on every hand. Behind us stretches the heathery slope known as Bush Meads, anciently Bishop's Meads; to our left (in summer time covered thickly with ferns) a hill rises precipitously from the Avon, which here bends round in a fine sweep. On our right hand, the bottom of the valley is shut in by Dean Moor, and immediately in front of us on the opposite side of the river, is Huntingdon Warren, a fine bold hill of good hard ground, free from heather, but covered in places with scattered granite. Several enclosures, the rude erections of the Danmonii, are in sight, and tell us that this quiet valley was once thickly peopled by the ancient inhabitants of the moor.

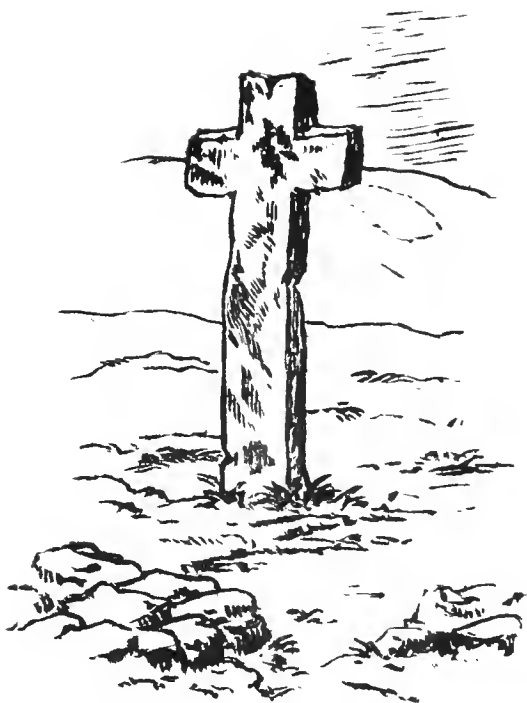
Not far from where we stand the Avon is spanned by a rude bridge of two openings, formed of slabs laid on a centre pier, consisting partly of

the natural rock,¹ and further up the stream we catch sight of a craggy hollow, from which the river seems to issue. On approaching it, we should discover that the Avon here falls, in a series of small cascades and widely-spreading rivulets, over a number of rocky ledges, and forms a most interesting picture.

Huntingdon Cross. From Buckland Ford we shall follow the Abbots' Way to the Avon, and cross it at another ford, at a spot known to the moor-men as Lower Huntingdon Corner, immediately above the confluence of this stream with the Western Wellabrook. It is here where the inquisition says the fourth cross was set up, and we shall be gratified at observing it still standing erect a few yards from the bank of the river. It is now known as Huntingdon Cross, and is situated at the corner of the warren. It is immediately within the forest bounds, and close to the spot where the parish of Lydford (in which the whole of the forest lies) joins the parishes of Dean and Brent. On some maps it is called Buntingdon Cross, but this must certainly be an error.

The name Huntingdon is not improbably derived from *aun*, water (in this particular instance the

¹ This bridge, although constructed in a precisely similar manner to those which are undoubtedly of very ancient erection, is distinguishable from them at a glance. Here the edges of the granite are not rounded as they naturally are in the older examples. The two stones which form the roadway, and which once were evidently one, show the marks of a bar used in splitting them. The bridge, however, presents a very picturesque appearance.



HUNTINGDON CROSS.
HEIGHT—FOUR-AND-A-HALF FEET.

name of the river which here flows by) and *dun*, a hill, *i.e.* the water hill, which certainly commends itself as a very suitable appellation, for it is bounded on two sides by the Avon or Aune, and on a third by the Wellabrook.

Huntingdon Cross is romantically situated in a kind of hollow, the rising ground surrounding it being covered with patches of heather, with here and there a grey boulder of granite. All around is still and silent, save the low murmuring of the waters as they run over their pebbly bed. The only signs of life are the furry inhabitants of the warren, and, perchance, a herd of Dartmoor ponies, wild as the country over which they roam, and a few sheep or cattle grazing on the slopes. The cross is surrounded by rushes, and a dilapidated wall—the warren enclosure—runs near it. It stands a little out of the perpendicular, and is close upon four and a half feet in height. Across the arms it measures one foot ten inches. There is no trace whatever of any inscription to be seen upon it.

Evidences of the occupancy of man, and of the works of his hand, are plainly visible in this spot. The Abbots' Way is here distinctly seen ascending the left bank of the river as it makes for the enclosed country above Dean Burn. Along the bank of the Wellabrook old mining operations have left their traces; and on the slope of the hill to the east is a large circular enclosure, two hundred and eighty yards in circumference, and between it and the Avon are nine hut circles. Further down the river these hut villages are numerous, especially on the left bank.

With our examination of Huntingdon Cross, we shall conclude the survey of the four which formerly served to mark the bounds of Brent Moor.

Pearl's Cross. Owley Gate, which opens on to Ugborough Moor, below the Eastern Beacon, will be the point from whence we shall next start. Here we shall observe a rough track, which pursuing for a short distance, and crossing the head of a little brook, we shall find has become a smooth green path of considerable width. By following this grassy road, which runs nearly due east and west, (and which we should be well able to do, even after it loses its present character and is covered with heather, for it is marked throughout the whole of its course by small heaps of stones placed at short distances apart) we shall reach the moor gate at Harford ; the path forming the most direct route between that place and Owley, from whence a road leads to Brent.

We shall, however, find the object we are in quest of at about midway, and nearly a mile from the gate by which we have entered on the moor. It is the top of the shaft, and one of the arms of a very curious old cross, and it is much to be lamented that it has been so mutilated. It is known as Pearl's Cross,¹ (a corruption probably of some older name) and is situated by the side of the path we have been following, close to the point where it is intersected by an old road, which though

¹ I know not how far my orthography may be correct, but I spell the name as I have generally heard it pronounced.

now exhibiting the marks of wheels and showing us that it is sometimes used as a way for bringing in peat, is no doubt an ancient track, and can be traced a considerable distance. It passes between Sharp Tor and Three Barrows, and goes direct to Left Lake Ford, and from thence to one of the boundary stones of Ugborough and Harford Moors. From this point it becomes a narrow path, but can be followed as far as the stream which runs down Stoney Bottom into the Erme. Erme Pound is at no great distance from this place, and a little further on, the Abbots' Way crosses Redlake. In the opposite direction this old road may be traced to the enclosed lands on the south of the Eastern Beacon.

The shaft of Pearl's Cross is missing, and the mutilated head is simply fixed up on a few loose stones. There is little doubt, however, that it is now found within a very short distance of its original site, and that it served to mark the path by which we have come from Owley, and also the one which crosses it.

Although what remains of this cross is but a fragment, it is sufficient to show that it possessed a certain amount of roughly executed ornamentation. It appears to have been cylindrical in shape, and across the upper and under surfaces of the arm there are projections about an inch and a half high, and about two and a half inches wide. The same are also to be observed on each side of the top of the shaft, the only part of this which is now remaining. These must have given the cross a very interesting appearance, when in its complete

state ; and there is no other example of a Dartmoor cross in which this rude kind of ornamentation occurs, nor is there anything of the sort to be observed on those which are portrayed in Blight's *Ancient Crosses and Antiquities of Cornwall*.

The portion which is left to us of this interesting relic, measures from the top of the shaft to the fracture, which is immediately below the arms, one foot eleven inches. One arm is completely gone, and the end of the other has also been broken. From the present extremity of this arm to the further side of the shaft from where the other has been broken off, the measurement is one foot five inches. From the upper surface of the arm to the top of the shaft it is nine and a half inches, and the diameter of the arm is about one foot.

It presents a very weather-beaten appearance, and though ornamented in the manner described, is rougher on its surface than most of the crosses which are found on the moor. This, however, may have arisen from the wearing away of the granite.

Turning our faces towards the direction from which we have come, a very pleasing view is presented. The little market town of South Brent lies at the foot of the lofty eminence known as Brent Hill, which rises conspicuously above the surrounding country. The vale of the Avon towards Avonwick, with the woods which cover the steep bank of the river, is plainly visible, and, as far as the eye can reach, are cultivated fields, with here and there a farmstead nestling amid the trees. On our right we perceive the rocks on the summit of the Eastern Beacon, and near us on each hand are several low, dilapidated cairns.

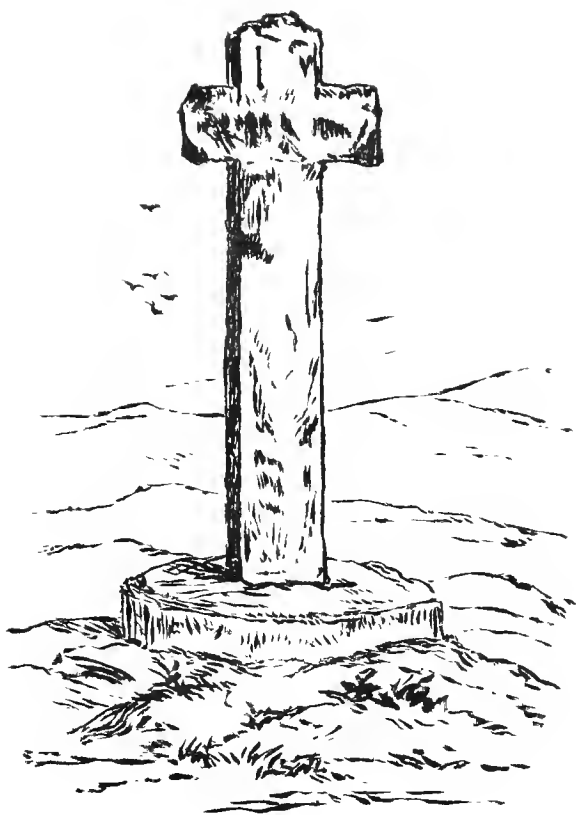
Proceeding once more in a westerly direction, we shall observe at a short distance from the cross, a row of single upright stones intersecting the path nearly at right angles ; and a little further on, we shall again approach the row of stones which runs from Butterdon Hill towards Sharp Tor, and which here crosses our grassy track. As Pearl's Cross is very much nearer the stone row than the cross on Three Barrows, some doubts may perhaps enter our minds as to whether the former may not be the old Hobajon's Cross after all, under a new name ; but the recollection that the name of the latter still exists near Three Barrows, will prove sufficient to enable us to dismiss this idea.

The path will now take us down a slope, and we shall pass the source of a rivulet that falls into the Erme, just below Harford, and following the little heaps of stones shall reach the moor gate. A few minutes will bring us to Harford Church, and from thence to the bridge, on the road to Cornwood, which we shall follow, and after a beautiful walk through true Devonshire lanes, we shall find ourselves in that village.

Roman's Cross. The next cross which we shall visit is situated on Lee Moor, whither we shall now proceed by the road which leads to Meavy, and shall perceive it on the right-hand side immediately beside the highway, and at no great distance from the clay works. Rowe in his *Pereambulation of Dartmoor* has a passing notice of this cross, "the shaft of which," he says, "appears to have been broken off, as there is only enough

now left to raise the cross slightly above the large block, in which a socket has been formed to receive it." Since this was written, however, it has been placed upon a shaft, and properly fixed in the socket, and now stands erect. For this act of careful preservation, we are indebted to the late Earl Morley. I presume the old shaft could not be found, as the present one does not seem to have originally belonged to the head, but has apparently been made for it. Its sides and the face nearest the road have been squared, but the back part of it remains in its rough, natural state. The block in which the socket is cut, is about fourteen inches in thickness, and is circular in shape, the diameter of it being about three feet and a half. Whether this block always belonged to the cross or not, I am unable to say, but, as we know from Rowe that the head was resting in the socket cut in it before its restoration took place, it seems probable that it did. I have been informed that the head of this cross was found lying on the moor near at hand, and placed here for preservation; but while this was so, it would not necessarily prove that the stone did not originally belong to it.

Standing as this cross does by the road-side—if not in its original position, at all events not far from it—it was doubtless erected like Pearl's Cross to point out the direction of an ancient track, the forerunner probably of the present road. Near at hand, an old path leads across the common to the village of Shaugh, and we may not unreasonably suppose that the cross also indicated the point where this branch diverged.



ROMAN'S CROSS, LEE MOOR.

HEIGHT, FIVE FEET TEN INCHES.

It is known in the neighbourhood as Roman's Cross, and stands five feet ten inches in height, and is two feet across the arms. The shaft measures from the bottom to the under surface of the arms about four feet two inches, and is thirteen inches in width. One corner of it is bevelled, and that the other should be so treated was probably intended, but from some cause or other it was left unfinished.

It has been suggested to me that the name of this cross became attached to it in consequence of its being probably styled by those in the vicinity the Roman Cross, and so in course of time it came to be called Roman's Cross. If this be so, the name would, of course, be a comparatively modern one. It has, however, occurred to me whether or not the name may have been corrupted from Rumon. The Abbey of Tavistock was dedicated to St. Mary and St. Rumon, and the road, to which we may suppose this cross served as a mark, was doubtless frequently traversed by pilgrims journeying to that abbey, and they may have bestowed the latter saint's name upon the old land-mark.

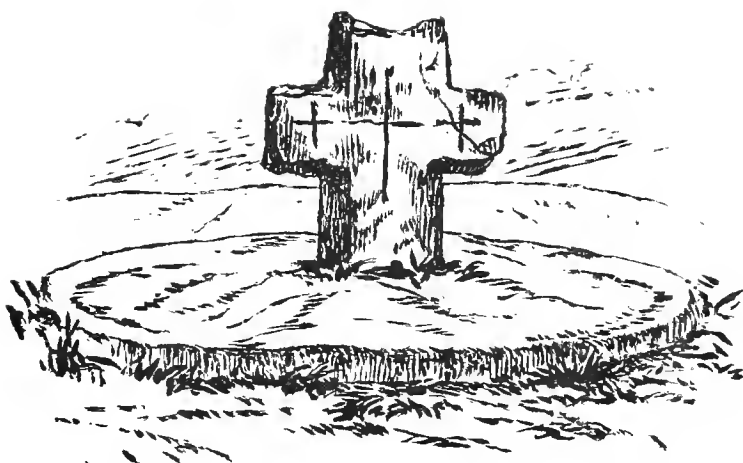
I must not omit to mention another object in the immediate neighbourhood, in which we find the same name as that of the cross occurring. I allude to the excavation known as the Roman Camp, which, however, seems to be nothing more than a remnant of some ancient mining operations.

A tradition affirms that this cross was erected to mark the spot where St. Paul once preached, and we shall probably not be sceptical regarding it, *when* it is proved to our satisfaction that St. Paul ever set foot in Britain.

Many rude stone remains are to be found in the vicinity of Roman's Cross, but the spoliator has, unfortunately, been at work among them.

The view from the spot where this interesting relic stands, embraces an extensive range of the cultivated country to the south and south-west, bounded by the Channel; while to the north and north-east are seen the granite crests of numerous tors. Brent Tor is a conspicuous object far away to the northward, while the rocky piles of Great and Little Trowlsworthy Tors rise near at hand.

Cross near Leaving Roman's Cross, we shall proceed
Cadaford by the road to Cadaford Bridge,
Bridge. which spans the river Plym, or, as it is not unfrequently called in this part of its course, the Cad. Crossing it we shall make our way up the slope of Wigford Down, and, at a very short distance in a north-westerly direction, shall come upon a portion of what must once have been a remarkably fine cross. It was discovered lying near here by the soldiers encamped in the vicinity, during the Autumn Manœuvres in 1873, and was set up by them, to commemorate some event, on the centre of a small grassy mound, rather more than nine feet in diameter, and surrounded by a little trench. The greater part of the shaft is gone, but the portion now remaining measures from the surface of the ground to the top, about two and a half feet, and across the arms, two feet five inches. The width of the shaft below the arms is thirteen inches, and from the upper surface of the arms to the top of the shaft, it is



PORTION OF CROSS NEAR CADAFORD BRIDGE.

HEIGHT, TWO-AND-A-HALF FEET.

exactly twelve inches. The shaft tapers from the arms upward ; below them it appears to have had its sides parallel.

On one side of this cross there is a fracture, a piece being split off from it, but the face which now fronts westward is uninjured. On this side I observed three incised crosses ; one on each arm, and the third, a little larger than the others, in the centre, exactly where the arms intersect the shaft. There are faint traces of what seem to be incised crosses on the fractured side, but they cannot be determined as such with certainty.

We may not unreasonably suppose that this cross was originally set up as a mark to the same road that Roman's Cross served to point out, on the line of which, as I have observed, the present highway (which passes close to the spot on which the cross is now placed), was, very likely, formed.

The surroundings are of a very pleasing character. The river, termed by Carrington "the ever-brawling Cad" flows at a short distance from us, on its way to mingle its waters with the Mew, at the foot of the romantic Dewerstone, from thence rolling onward—

"Thro' arching bridges, moss'd by hoary time,
Or, hung with clustering verdure, thro' rich meads,
Till flowing on thro' SALTRAM's towery groves,
It pours its tribute to the restless sea."¹

Trowlsworthy Warren house, with numerous enclosures near it, is seen on the hillside ; a few

¹ Howard's *Bickleigh Vale*, p. 33

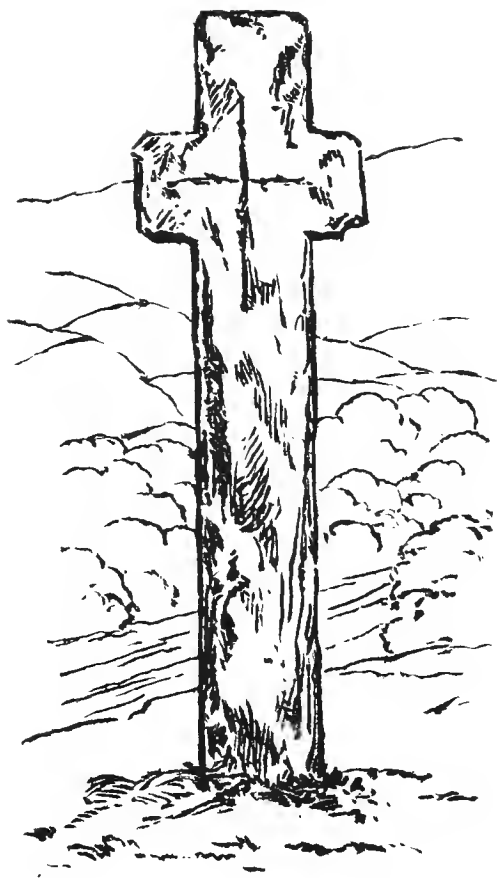
tors lift their rugged crests above the slopes, while Pen Beacon and its companion height of Shell Top rise above the whole, and a true picture of Dartmoor border scenery is presented.

Merchant's Cross. Turning our back upon this attractive scene, and following the road up the ascent in front of us, we shall soon reach Ringmoor Down, along the skirts of which we shall make our way to Lynch Hill. The road here winds down this steep declivity to the Mew, and at the foot of it, on the very verge of the common, we shall be pleased at observing a remarkably fine cross.

In the vicinity, it is known by the name of Merchant's Cross, and is the tallest of any on the moor, being no less than eight feet two inches in height. It measures across the arms two feet three inches, and they are fourteen inches in depth. From the bottom of the shaft to their under surface the distance is five feet ten inches. Fourteen inches is the width of the shaft at its widest part, but in some places it is not quite thirteen. Just below the arms, the shaft is ten inches in thickness, but lower down is two inches less than this.

On each side of it there is an incised cross in the centre of the shaft, where it is intersected by the arms. They are both of one size, and measure two feet four inches in height, and nearly fourteen inches across, being about one inch broad.

The cross is in a fine state of preservation, a small piece only, from the under corner of the southerly arm, being broken off. In proportion to



MERCHANT'S CROSS.
HEIGHT—EIGHT FEET, TWO INCHES.

the height of it, the arms are rather short, projecting but seven inches on each side of the shaft, the top part of which rises twice that distance above them. It leans a little towards the east, and stands on a small patch of greensward on the right of the road in descending the hill ; two lofty trees, an oak and an ash, spread their foliage above it. An upland road here branches off to Sheepstor, which is about two miles distant.

There is a tradition that this cross marks the grave of a suicide ; but while it is possible that a burial may have taken place near it, it is more probable that it pointed out the road over the moor by which we have reached it, and that pious hands erected it with the two-fold object, perhaps, of serving as a guide, and also to bring forcibly before the minds of those who journeyed this way, the religion of which it was emblematical. Indeed, tradition now relates that the wayfarer used, before setting out over the waste, to kneel before this cross and pray for protection on his journey.

A charming bit of scenery is presented from Merchant's Cross. We have lost sight of the more extensive prospect observable from the top of Lynch Hill, but we have gained a near view of a beautifully wooded little valley. Yennadon forms a barrier to the north, with a fine plantation of firs stretching part way up its slope.¹ To the north-east the thick foliage of Burrator Wood clothes the

¹ This common is generally known as Yennadon (or Yannadon) Down, but the addition of the latter word is, without doubt, a re-duplication. The moor-men exhibit a tendency to indulge in this propensity when speaking of the tors and other objects on the

side of the valley, and trees also cover the bottom, hiding the stream which courses along it, while towards the east are pasture fields adjoining the common, which stretches around to the point where we stand, and rises high behind us. The granite peak of Lether Tor is seen peeping over the trees at the head of the valley, forming a striking contrast to the softer features in the foreground.

We shall now proceed to Merchant's Bridge near at hand, beneath which flows the Mew as it emerges from its leafy screen, and crossing it, shall leave Meavy on our left, and mount the hill towards Yennadon, not for the purpose of examining another cross, but with the object of enjoying the view of the beautiful scenery which is commanded from that common.

Did we visit Meavy, we should find the base of a cross in that village, and further back at Shaugh, should also have seen one standing in a hedge at some short distance to the eastward of the church, had we extended our walk to that place. These, however, would partake more of the character of village crosses, and although close to the borders of the moor, cannot, of course, be considered as Dartmoor crosses, and do not therefore come within the scope of these observations.

We shall not fail to be delighted with the varied prospect which we obtain from Yennadon. Rocky steeps, smiling fields, hills covered with gorse and heather, thickly wooded glens, and wide stretches

moor. Hentor Tor, Laughter Tor, Ingator Tor, Lakehead Head, Hameldon Down, are examples of this, and many others might be given.

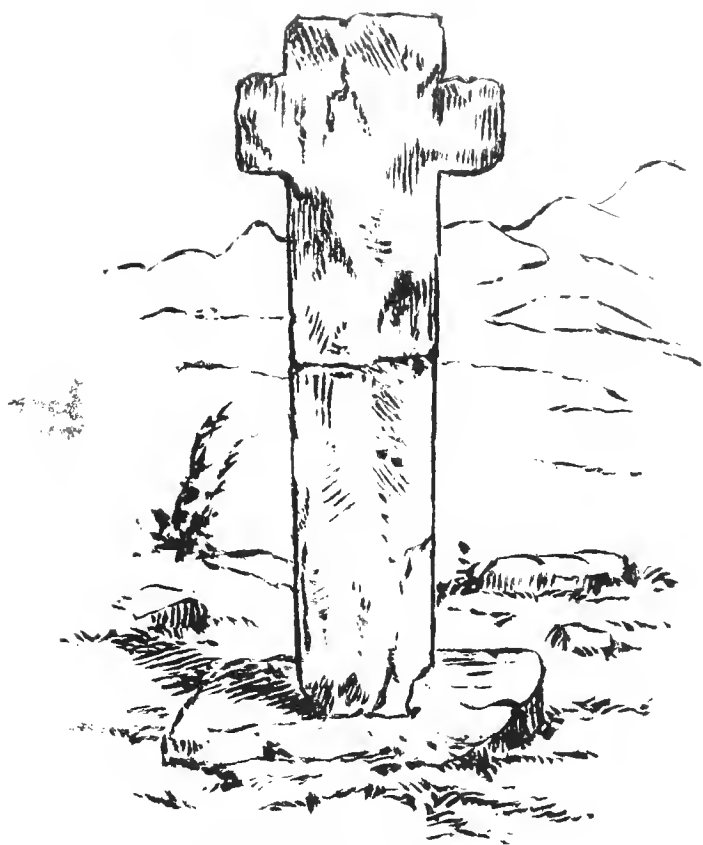
of common are spread around ; and as we look down upon the lovely valley of the winding Mew, the words of Capern, our Devonshire poet, will recur to us:—

“The vales of Devonia !
What landscapes are seen,
So fertile in beauty,
So golden and green !”

Siward's We shall now proceed to examine another
or Ann's group of crosses, and for this purpose
Cross. shall once more visit Western Whitaburrow, in order that we may approach the first of the objects of which we are in search, by the old Abbots' Way. It passes at no great distance from the cairn as we have already seen, and, on gaining it, instead of going towards Buckland Ford, we shall turn in the opposite direction and trace it to Redlake, which we shall have no difficulty in doing, as this old track is here very plainly marked ; in fact, from a ford below Brock Hill Mire on Dean Moor to Redlake Ford, it is still a very good path for a horse, with the exception of one or two boggy places near the Avon. This road may have crossed the stream at this fording-place, but I am more inclined to think that the ford has been made by moor-men, who use this part of the Abbots' Way, in driving their cattle over it, and that the ancient path was carried down the left bank of Redlake, where evident traces of it are still to be seen, and crossed it just where it falls into the Erme, and not very far above Erme Pound. It is not unlikely that the path which we

have seen passing by Pearl's Cross, and running out to Left Lake, and Stoney Bottom, though perhaps more frequently used as a way to Erme Pound, was also traversed at times by travellers making for the Abbots' Way from the neighbourhood of Ugborough, and it would be at the point we have now reached that they would strike it. After passing Redlake, the track is lost for some distance, but evidently ran along on the left bank of the Erme, as it is seen crossing Dark Lake immediately where that stream unites its waters with the former river, the source of which is close at hand. The Abbots' Way passing the mire, here continues its course over some fairly hard ground, through the midst of bogs, to the Plym, which stream it crosses near its head waters at two places, the lower track being the one which would be pursued by those journeying to Buckland. It is, however, by the higher ford that we shall cross, but we shall see few traces of the old road further than this point. A direct line from here to Tavistock, though seemingly the most natural route for the Abbots' Way to take, was not the direction it followed, for the nature of the ground had to be considered in planning this old track across the moor. We shall therefore proceed in a direction north-west-by-north, where we shall find pretty good ground, and at the distance of about a mile and a half shall come in sight of an object which will cause us to quicken our steps, and hasten down the slope towards it.

This is Siward's Cross, a most interesting relic, and though not quite so tall as Merchant's Cross, is more massive, and is, in fact, the largest cross on



SIWARD'S CROSS,
HEIGHT, SEVEN FEET FOUR INCHES,

REPRESENTATION
OF
SIWARD'S CROSS.



ON AN ANCIENT
MAP
OF DARTMOOR.

Dartmoor. It is now more frequently called Nun's Cross, and is about two and a half miles to the southward of Princetown. It is fixed in a socket cut in a block of stone sunk into the ground. In height it is seven feet four inches, and measures two feet eight inches across the arms. The width is rather greater across the top of the shaft than it is lower down, being here one foot eight inches, while immediately below the arms it is but one foot six inches. Across the lower part of the shaft it is narrower still, for at the distance of one foot from the bottom it measures only one foot five inches, and below this it narrows gradually towards the socket in which it is placed. The shaft has not perfectly parallel sides, for the width of the western face of it is about three inches less than these measurements, which I took on the eastern side. Its average thickness is fourteen inches. The arms spring from the shaft at a distance of five feet nine inches from the bottom, the largest of them, the southerly one, being eleven inches in depth close to the shaft, and the smaller one only eight inches.

At the distance of three feet eight inches from the bottom, the shaft has been broken in half, but an iron clamp on each side of it now holds it firmly together. Iron wedges also secure it in the socket. The cause of its being overturned was never ascertained, but Rowe says it occurred only about two years before he wrote—1848—and, as he also saw it when it was restored, which praiseworthy act, he states, was the work of Sir Ralph Lopes, it could not long have remained in a fallen condition.

It forms one of the boundary marks of the

forest, being mentioned in the Perambulation of 1240, and is figured on the old map of the moor already referred to. Here it is represented as standing on steps, in the same manner as Hobajon's Cross, but there is no trace of anything of the kind now. On the back of the map the perambulation is set forth, and at its foot is the following:—

“hit is to be noatid that on the one syde of the
crosse abouesaid their is graven in the stone Crux
Siwardi, and on the oth. side is graven, Roolande.”

In the notes to Carrington's *Dartmoor*, however, it is stated that on the western side the words *Bond bond* are to be seen in Saxon characters, having been conjectured, so that work states, to mean the bond or bound of the land, and on the eastern side, in more modern characters, the word *Syward*, considered to be the name of some prince, duke, or earl of the forest. The editor of *Murray's Handbook for Devonshire*, ed. 1879 (a writer whose acquaintance with Dartmoor was very extensive), renders the inscription on one side as *Syward*, and on the other as *Bod Bonde*, and says it marked the “bonde” between the Royal forest and the Monks' moor.

I have examined these inscriptions with great care, and although they are not easily to be made out, yet on the eastern side, across the arms, I think there is unquestionably the word *Syward* or *Siward*. It is uncertain whether the second letter is a *y* or an *i*, and the first is not very distinct, but the last four there is not much doubt about. On the western face there is a small incised cross in

the centre of the shaft, where it is intersected by the arms, and immediately below this are the letters which have been read as *Bod Bond* and also as *Roolande*, but which I am quite convinced mean nothing of the kind. Siward's Cross is named in a deed of Amicia, Countess of Devon, confirming the grant of certain lands for building and supporting the Abbey of Buckland, among which were the manors of Buckland, Bickleigh, and Walkhampton. This latter manor abuts on the forest, and the boundary line, which Siward's Cross, as just stated, marks at one of the points, is drawn from Mistor to the Plym.¹ The cross, therefore, in addition to being considered a forest boundary mark, also became one to the lands of Buckland Abbey, and I am therefore convinced that the letters on it which have been so variously interpreted simply represent the word *Boclund*. The name, as already stated, is engraved on the western face of the cross—the side on which the monks' possessions lay.

The word is divided, the first three letters forming one line, and the remaining four another, directly under it, thus :

B O C
L O N D

¹ " From Walkhampton to the boundaries of Dartmoor, on the northern part of Mistor, and thence towards the south by the boundaries of the Verderers (regardorum) of Dartmoor, that is to say, by Mistorhead (Mistor panna), and by Hysfochres, and by Siwards Cross and Gylesburgh and Plymcundla to the Plym." Deed of Amicia, Countess of Devon. Dr. Oliver's *Monasticon* p. 383; Mr. J. Brooking Rowe's *Cistercian Houses of Devon*; *Trans. Devon Assoc.*, vol. vii. p. 355. It would seem as though an endeavour was afterwards made to extend these bounds, for one of the Abbots was, in 1478, found guilty by a jury at Lydford of intruding upon the prince's land in Dartmoor.

and this has caused some to imagine that there were two words. How the second syllable should have been read as *Bond*, I cannot conceive, for the **L** is plainly to be discerned. The other letters, of course, require a careful examination to determine what they are, but with a very close scrutiny the only one there will be found to be any doubt about is the third, which looks more like an **O** than anything else. This is, however, easily to be accounted for, as the wearing away of a very small portion of the stone would cause the letter **C** to appear like an **O**. It is this appearance which has hitherto led astray those who have endeavoured to decipher the inscription, and together with the error of reading the first letter as an **R** instead of a **B** (another mistake which might easily occur) has led to the belief that the letters represented the word *Roolande*, but no one has ever suggested any reason why such a name should appear on the cross. I can see no more than seven letters ; there does not appear to have been any **E** at the end of the word.

While, however, we can quite understand such a mistake as the foregoing, happening at a period long subsequent to the time the letters were engraved, it is puzzling to see how it could have arisen at a time when they would not only be plainly decipherable, but the meaning of them also be perfectly understood, as must have been the case if the date of the map is to be referred to the thirteenth century. As already pointed out, however, the representation of Buckland Abbey Church on it, proves it to be of later date than this, and the present circumstance furnishes an additional proof,

were such wanting, unless the writing on the back of the map can be shewn to be of much later date than the map itself, for it is not possible that such an error as that of reading the name as *Roolande*, could have arisen until long after the time when it was first engraved on the cross. It therefore appears that the map cannot boast of so great an antiquity as has been supposed ; but it may be a copy of an older map, in which case, the description of the cross was without doubt added to it when the copy was made. That an error has occurred I feel sure, for I do not think there is any doubt that the word represented is *Bocland*.

This old spelling, or Saxon form, of the name occurs in the deed of Amicia, and also in a charter of her daughter Isabella de Fortibus, granted in 1291, confirming the grants made by her mother to the Abbey. The name probably arose from the tenure under which the lands were held, *Boc* land meaning land held by charter. Dyer, however, states that places on streams which bear the name of Buckland derive it from *ock* or *uck*, water, as many were so named before the tenure of Bocland was known.¹ Thus the name would signify the *stream land*, and Buckland being situated on the River Tavy, such name would not be inappropriate. It has also been considered to mean *beech land*, but the first-mentioned etymology, in the present instance at all events, seems the most probable one.

The letters on the cross which compose the name

¹ Restoration of the Ancient Modes of Bestowing Names, &c., p. 163.

of Siward, have been considered to be much more modern than those which we have just been examining, and certainly have that appearance. They were therefore probably cut on the stone long after the cross first obtained that name, in order to perpetuate it.

As this cross was in existence before Buckland Abbey was founded, we know at once that the monks of that house were not the erectors of it ; with regard to the monks of Tavistock Abbey, the case is somewhat different. Siward's Cross, standing as it does on the line of the Abbots' Way, would seem, not improbably, to have been set up by the monks of Tavistock, as a mark to point out the direction of this track across the moor ; and were it not for the fact that it has been supposed to have obtained its name from Siward, Earl of Northumberland, who, it is said, held property near this part of the moor in the Confessor's reign, I should have no hesitation in believing such to be the case. Buckfast Abbey was not founded until 1137, so that if the cross was standing at the time it is said Siward held lands here, it could not have been erected for the purpose of marking any road leading to that place ; but there is no proof that it was really standing so early, and if there was, it would not follow that the monks of Tavistock did not erect it, for Tavistock Abbey was founded nearly a century earlier. This, however, is a point which, from the slender evidence we have, it is, of course, impossible to determine. Mr. Spence Bate is of opinion that it was erected on the site of an old kistvaen, which he considers is the cause of its

possessing more than one name, that of the old warrior, whose remains reposed in the rude sarcophagus, adhering to the spot after the erection of the Christian symbol. I am not, however, of opinion that it obtained its appellation of Nun's Cross in this way, but am rather inclined to consider the word a corruption of *nans*, which means in Cornu-Celtic a valley, dale, or ravine ; hence Nans Cross would be the cross standing in the valley. This description would exactly suit it, for it is surrounded on three sides by higher ground, and stands at the head of the valley where rises the Swincombe river, which falls into the West Dart. Whatever our conjectures may be as to who erected this cross, we know positively that it was standing as early as the year 1240, and was then known as Siward's Cross, and formed one of the boundary marks of the forest.

In the deed of Amicia alluded to five other crosses are mentioned by name, viz. :—Smalacumbacrosse, Yanedonecross, Maynstoncross,¹ Wolewille Cross, and Copriscrosse. As far as I can determine, the latter three were not on the moor, but Smalacumbe Cross may have been, and Yanedone Cross was probably on or near the common which still bears that name.

Siward's Cross being closely surrounded by higher ground, there is no view, except a peep at Fox Tor down the valley, to be obtained from it. This tor, however, is seen to better advantage from this spot than any other. The enclosures of a small moor

¹ Qy. Maen stone. Probably an incised cross on an ancient menhir.

farm are close at hand, the low thatched out-buildings being erected in true Dartmoor style.

We shall again pass the monks' bond-mark, but for the present will bid adieu to this interesting old memorial of other times; ere doing so, however, I will trespass on your patience, gentle reader, while I address these few lines—which I have penned—

TO SIWARD'S CROSS.

Old cross, how many summers bright have flown
 Since first was here up-reared thy sacred form;
 How many winters hast thou stood alone,
 And braved the storm.

Of those who shaped and fashioned thee with care,
 From the rough block that midst the heather lay,
 The memory, like smoke upon the air,
 Hath passed away.

At morn, when gladdened by the Sun's bright ray,
 The lark poured forth her mountain melody,
 Oft has the abbot, passing on his way,
 Gazed upon thee.

When dusky night's advance made daylight flee,
 Or gathering mists the beaten track would hide,
 The lonely traveller, beholding thee,
 Hath found a guide.

Long in the desert may'st thou stand, old cross,
 And towards thee ne'er be stretched an unkind hand;
 But with thy coat of lichen grey and moss,
 Long may'st thou stand!

The Very slight traces of the Abbots'
Windypost. Way are observable leading from
 Siward's Cross, but the name of
 Jobber's Cross, in connection with the old track
 near the prison at Princetown, as before mentioned,

would lead to the supposition that it must have passed that way. But for this, I should be rather inclined to think that its course lay to the westward of North Hisworthy Tor,¹ instead of to the eastward of it, the side on which Princetown lies ; or even that it did not extend so far northward as that tor, but that, on nearing South Hisworthy Tor, it left it a little to the right, and then went straight to Tavistock, crossing the Walkham somewhere above the spot where Ward Bridge now is. The existence of the name of the road, however, at Princetown, is a strong piece of evidence to the contrary ; but, whatever course it took, we know it must have crossed the river at some place between the bridge just named and Merivale Bridge, higher up the stream. Thither we shall now proceed, and, gaining the opposite side of the river shall pass near Vixen Tor, and making our way across Beckamoor Combe, we shall soon reach Feather Tor, which is situated a little to the northward of Pu Tor.

Here we shall observe a cross, and on nearing it shall find it to be a remarkably fine example. It is known in the vicinity as the Windypost or Windy-stone, but is sometimes called Beckamoor Cross. It stands on an elevated plain between Feather Tor² and Barn Hill, being close to the former, which is a tor of no great size. The shaft and

¹ Commonly called North Hessary Tor. South Hisworthy Tor is now generally known in the vicinity as Look-Out Tor.

² On the Ordnance map, Feather Tor does not seem to be rightly marked. It is not so far north as it is there made to appear.

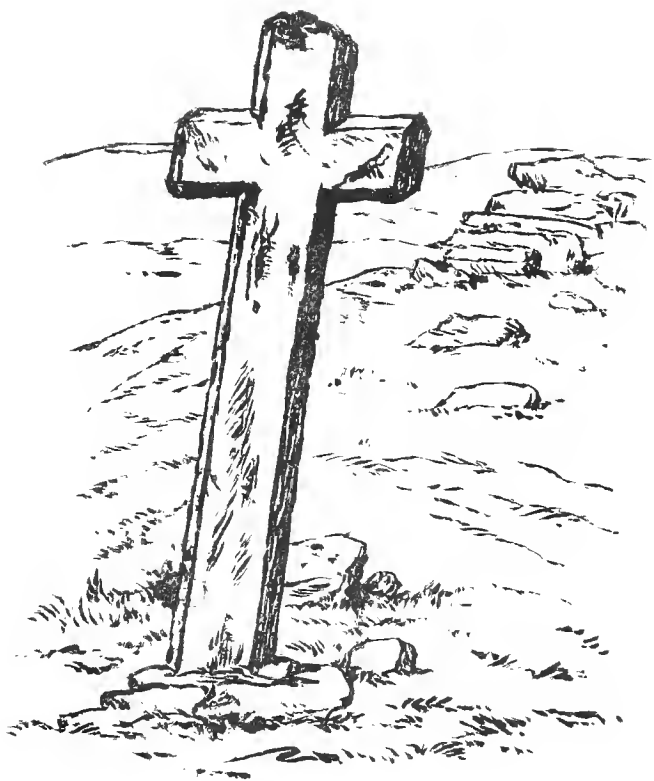
arms are octagonal, and have a girth, the former of three feet four inches, the latter of three feet one inch. It is seven feet in height, and across the arms measures two feet three inches; the distance of the under surface of the arms from the bottom of the shaft is five feet. The faces of this cross look nearly due north and south, and it inclines out of the perpendicular; a straight line drawn from the under surface of the arm, close to the shaft on the western side, would fall seven inches off from the bottom. The broad arrow has recently been cut on it, I presume, by the Ordnance surveyors.

Some moss and lichen are seen on the head of this interesting relic, telling us of its age, like the silvered hair of an old man. Time, however, has dealt gently with it, for it is in a very good state of preservation, and shows but few signs of the winter storms to which it has for long years been exposed. From its style it is probably of sixteenth century erection; and that it replaced a more ancient stone, whose name it took, is not unlikely.

A small stream of water runs at a distance of a few yards from it, and to this we must look for the derivation of the name of the combe close by, of Barn Hill to the northward, and not improbably of that of the cross itself. Beckamoor is evidently derived from the word *beck*, which signifies a mountain stream; and *barn*, according to Dyer, is simply *aun*, water, with the *u* changed to *r*, and *b* prefixed.¹ *W'in* is a synonym of *ean*, water,²

¹ *Ancient Modes*, pp. 24, 166.

² *Ibid.* p. 235.



THE WINDYPOST.
HEIGHT, SEVEN FEET.

and *y* is a diminutive, so that the name *Windypost* would mean the post by the little stream.¹

If this Celtic derivation of the name be the correct one, my supposition that the cross marks the spot on which an older stone stood would seem to be confirmed.

A track will be observed close to it fording the rivulet, and, although bearing evident marks of comparatively recent usage, may be none the less an old path, and, although I do not contend too strongly for the point, is not improbably the Abbots' Way. It is pointed out by the moor men that the Windypost is in a direct line with a cross on Whitchurch Down (which we shall presently notice) and the menhir near the stone avenues on Long Ash Hill above Merivale Bridge, so that it would almost appear as if this latter was made use of as a mark to the road, which would thus seem to run in a straight line from it to Whitchurch Down, passing by the cross we have just examined. If, however, the Abbots' Way passed to the eastward of North Hisworthy Tor, the menhir would be left a little to the south, as that road descended the hill towards the Walkham, but it would still go to the Windypost and over the down in pursuing a straight course to Tavistock. It is impossible to determine this matter with any certainty ; but we must not allow the fact of the route round North Hisworthy Tor being an indirect one from Siward's Cross, to influence us against believing that such

¹ Dyer p. 234, also derives *wind* from *vin*, which he says implies a hill. If the name of the cross comes from this word, it would, of course, signify the post on the hill.

was the course it took, for, though longer, it would have been an infinitely better road to travel. As before observed, the kind of ground to be passed over was a consideration which could not be overlooked ; and while these old tracks always pursued a direct course, where it was possible, it was evidently a matter of solicitude with those who first marked them out, to choose such ground as a horse could at all times pass over without danger.

Standing by the side of the Windypost we obtain some very fine views of the surrounding country,—a total contrast being presented, on the western side, to the picture observable as we look toward the east. On the north and south we are shut in by the low eminences between which the cross stands, but in other directions the prospect is extensive. From north-east to south-east is a wide range of moor, and on the opposite side a vast extent of cultivated country, backed by the Cornish hills. Staple Tor rises to the north-east, seen above the shoulder of Barn Hill, which forms a near foreground, and east-north-east, Great Mistor rises grandly with its granite crown. Below us, to the east, is Vixen Tor ; while opposite to it, on the other side of the Walkham, is seen King Tor, with the Princetown Railway sweeping around its base. Turning to the south-west, we can discern the Tamar above Saltash, with the Royal Albert Bridge spanning the river ; and a little further to the west, the Channel is visible off the coast of Cornwall. Tavistock lies below us to the north-west, and a grand panorama of woods and fields stretches away in the distance, with Kit Hill forming a conspicuous object in the landscape.

Cross on Whitchurch Down. As I have just observed, if the Windypost marked the Abbots' Way, that road passed over Whitchurch Down, without doubt, and the old cross situated there may have indicated its direction. Without, however, insisting on this, we follow the old cart-track down the hill towards Moortown (which would have been the course the monks' path must have taken if such were the case), in order to reach Whitchurch Down, that we may examine the old relic. "Moretown," says Risdon, "hath long been in the tenure of Moringe, a family which anciently wrote themselves De la More, which place bordereth on the skirts of the moor." Some lofty trees grow around the house, and a pleasant lane near it leads from the moor, presenting a striking contrast to the wild heath we have just left, thickly strewn with its grey granite boulders. On reaching the bottom of the lane, an ascent is before us, up which we make our way, and in a very short time find ourselves on the down, over which we pursue a straight course, and when near its centre, with the road leading to Tavistock a little to our left, shall see before us the object which we wish to examine.

"Hard by the wayside I found a cross,
That made me breathe a pray'r upon the spot.—

* * * * *

Methought, the claims of Charity to urge
More forcibly, along with Faith and Hope,
The pious choice had pitch'd upon the verge
Of a delicious slope,

Giving the eye much variegated scope ;—
'Look round,' it whisper'd 'on that prospect rare,
Those vales so verdant, and those hills so blue ;
Enjoy the sunny world, so fresh, and fair.'"¹

This cross, though not really standing on the moor, may yet, I think, be fairly reckoned among the Dartmoor crosses ; for Whitchurch Down is only separated from Dartmoor by a narrow tract of cultivated country, and, at the time the cross was erected, was probably one with it. A kind of quarry has been formed close by, the ground being excavated to within a few feet of it. It has a very rugged appearance, and the depth of the arms, which are very roughly shapen, will at once strike the observer as being much greater than is generally the case, being no less than eighteen inches. The shaft measures four feet eight inches from the bottom to the under surface of the arms ; its full height being seven feet nine inches. In width it is about twelve or thirteen inches, and in thickness varies from ten to twelve. The arms are two feet four inches across. This venerable cross leans slightly on one side, and its rude fashioning presents a great contrast to the care displayed in the shaping of the Windypost.

On the south-east face there is something which bears a faint resemblance to an incised cross, but the granite is so much worn by the weather, that it is impossible to determine with any degree of certainty whether the marks are artificial or not.

It will be noticed that it stands within a circular enclosure formed by a low bank of turf, which also

¹ Hood. *Ode to Rae Wilson.*

includes the quarry in its area. This enclosure measures four hundred and seventy feet in circumference, the measurement being taken on the top of the bank, as it is so much overgrown with heather in certain places, that I could not measure it on the outside.

Due north from this cross we observe Brent Tor, only a few miles distant, the church on its summit being plainly visible, and to the right of it the long stretch of Black Down. North-east-by-north is seen Smear Ridge, and more to the east and nearer to us is Cocks Tor. We have also another view of Staple Tor, and turning to the east-south-east, the point from whence we have come, we shall see Pu Tor rising very prominently on the common above Moortown. In the other direction the prospect is bounded by the Cornish hills, a more extended view of which we obtained from the Windypost.

The town of Tavistock is within a short distance of this spot, though not visible from it ; but as we look towards the valley in which it lies, ere leaving the down to pursue our investigations in another part of the moor, thoughts of other days will perhaps crowd into our mind. We shall think of the time when the rich abbey, commenced by Ordgar and finished by his son Ordulph, flourished there ; of the Saxon School, and of the printing press, and the monk Dan Thomas Rychard, who in 1525 "emprinted in the exempt Monastery of Tavestok in Denshyre" a translation of *Boetius de Consolatione Philosophiæ*. We shall think too of Francis Drake, that brave "sea-dog" of Devon

who first drew breath beside fair Tavy's stream ; of Browne, the author of *Britannia's Pastorals* and of the well-known lines on *Lydford Law*, and the recollection of the fare he obtained on his visit to that place—the "tythen pig" between "nine good stomachs," and the "glass of drink" ("claret *when it was in France*")—will bring a smile to our face ; and as some of the beautiful descriptions of sylvan scenery in the *Pastorals* recur to us, and the story of the loves of the Walla and the Tavy is brought to our mind, we shall see in imagination the "all joysome grove," the bowers, and the "shading trees" of which he sings, and hear the feathered melodists of the woods mingling their carols with the loud murmuring of the "voiceful stream,"

"So numberless the songsters are that sing
In the sweet groves of the too careless spring,
That I no sooner could the hearing lose
Of one of them, but straight another rose,
And perching deftly on a quaking spray,
Nigh tir'd herself to make her hearer stay." ¹

A line of crosses which extends from Walkhampton Common on the western side of Dartmoor to Holne Moor on the east will now claim our attention, and, in order to examine them, it will be necessary to make our way to Lowery, a farm on the borders of the moor, and not very far from the northern end of Yennadon, as we shall there find a road which will take us to the first of these interesting objects.

¹ *Britannia's Pastorals*. Book ii., Song 3.

The scenery which surrounds us here is of a remarkably romantic character, and is not surpassed in any part of the border-land of Dartmoor. There is a grand assemblage of tors, their rugged peaks towering high above the partially cultivated combes, which here run up into the moor. Sheepstor, that giant of the hills, is the conspicuous feature in the view, and its huge dimensions are very strikingly presented.

On our left as we advance is Lether Tor, the summit of which we observed from Merchant's Cross, and which was also to be seen, with the other tors which now surround us, in our view from Yennadon. We see this tor to great advantage as we pass along its foot, under the clatter¹ which here covers the whole hill side. Just before nearing the farm which is called after it, the two principal peaks are observed, one rising high behind the other, amid a wilderness of boulders, and if beheld, as I have sometimes seen them, with the mist-wreaths resting on their summits and ever and anon hiding them from view, the effect is weird and picturesque.

The rocks composing the clatter are heaped in the utmost confusion, and the whole surroundings are wild in the extreme.

After passing the farm we shall cross one of the branches of the Mew at Lether Tor Bridge, the construction of which is similar to that of the ancient clapper bridges on the moor, the roadway

¹ Clatter, or, as it is sometimes called, Clitter, is the name given to the confused masses of granite rocks that are so frequently seen covering large areas of ground on the hill sides of the moor, or clustering around the bases of many of the tors.

being formed of stones laid across from buttress to pier. A moment's pause here to look once more upon the tor, as another fine view of it is obtained from this spot, and we shall proceed up the road, on each side of which there are numerous enclosures belonging to the hill-farms around us. On gaining the top of a slight ascent, another fine tor lies immediately in front of us on the opposite side of the combe, which we shall have observed before, but have not seen to such an advantage as is derived from beholding it from the point we have now reached. This is Down Tor, and the scattered masses of granite on its summit lie amid patches of green turf and heather, its appearance thus presenting quite a contrast to Lether Tor, which is composed entirely of piles of rock.

Passing a farm called Kingsett on our right-hand, we leave the enclosures and enter on the common, and shall find that our road has now degenerated into a very rough track indeed, suitable only for a bridle-path, or for peat carts. Close to it, on our left-hand, is Crazy Well Pool, and as it will take us but a few minutes to reach it, we will turn aside in order to gratify ourselves with a view of it, as it is a fine sheet of water, and the only instance of anything approaching a lake on Dartmoor.¹

A kind of gully will be noticed on the left of the road, with a little brook issuing from it, and crossing our path. This gully we shall not pass, but shall

¹ The name of this pool is sometimes written Clacey Well, or Classenwell, but on the moor it is pronounced as here spelled. This pool is said to cover an acre of ground.

keep along its verge, and shall be led directly to the pool.

Lying in a deep hollow, Crazy Well Pool bursts upon the view suddenly from whatever side it is approached, but the best effect is produced by sighting it first from the northern side, where the bank is highest, and where a few steps will bring to our view—as by the wand of an enchanter—a broad, deep tarn, where, but a moment before, a common covered with gorse and heather, with a few scattered hillocks, alone met the eye.

There is no doubt that this hollow is an artificial excavation, the remains, in all probability, of some mining operations, numerous old workings of a similar character being found all around this part of the common.

A belief has arisen among some of the country people that the pool ebbs and flows with the tide, and that it has no bottom, the old story being still related on the moor that the bell-ropes of Walkhampton church were once tied together, and let down into the pool, without finding any. According to Rowe, however, the pool was drained nearly dry, in the year 1844, in order to supply the deficiencies of the leat near by, and its depth was then ascertained.

There is a ballad, from the pen of the son of Mr. A. B. Johns, the artist, founded on a tradition that Piers Gaveston was concealed on the moor, during one of his banishments, and the scene of it is laid at Crazy Well Pool. Here, at early dawn, clothed in a peasant's dress, Gaveston awaits the coming of the Witch of Sheepstor:—

“ ‘ Where lags the witch ? she willed me wait
 Besides this mere at daybreak hour,
 When mingling in the distance sate
 The forms of cloud and tor.
 ‘ She comes not yet ; ’tis a wild place—
 The turf is dank, the air is cold ;
 Sweeter, I ween, on kingly dais,
 To kiss the circling gold ;
 ‘ Sweeter in courtly dance to tell
 Loves tales in lovely ears ;
 Or hear, high placed in knightly selle,
 The crash of knightly spears.
 ‘ What would they say, who knew me then,
 Teacher of that gay school,
 To see me guest of savage men
 Besides this Dartmoor pool ? ’ ”

The witch comes not, but Gaveston sees her face grow out of his own, as he peers into the pool ; and, letters formed by a rush moving over the surface of the water, enable him to read his fate—

“ *Fear not, thou favourite of a king,
 That humbled head shall soon be high.* ”

Alas ! A double meaning was contained in these words, as Gaveston learned too late. He returned to court, and once more basked in the sunshine of the royal favour, but a cruel fate at last overtook him—

“ Beside the block his thoughts recall
 That scene of mountain sorcery—
 Too late ! for high on Warwick wall
 In one brief hour his head must be.”¹

¹ Johns. *Gaveston on Dartmoor.*

**Cross on
Walthamton
Common.**

Regaining the road, near the little stream which flows from below the pool, we shall continue our way, and shortly come in sight of a ravine sloping down to the southern branch of the Mew. When about a half mile from this ravine, we shall leave the road a little on our left, and at the distance of a few score yards from it, come upon the first of the crosses which compose the line extending from this common to Holne Moor. It is, unfortunately, broken, and the lower part of the shaft is gone. We cannot but lament that this is so, and deplore the spirit of wanton spoilation which has raised its hand, here in the wilds, to strike this old relic low.

The portion which remains lies on the ground by the side of the socket stone in which it was once fixed, and measures one foot ten and a half inches across the arms, which are eleven inches deep; the shaft, or what is left of it, being two feet four inches in height. It is eight and a half inches wide below the arms, and the same immediately above them, but gradually widens upwards, being nine and a half inches at the top. The stone in which the socket is cut is very nearly square, measuring two feet eight inches by two feet ten inches, and is one foot nine inches in thickness. The socket measures thirteen inches by eleven and a half, and is six inches deep. The stone, which has been carefully shaped, has been moved from its place, the earth around it having been cleared away, and it is now tilted up on one side.

We find the socket-stones of several crosses on the moor in this condition, and a moor-man once

told me it was generally considered that they had been moved from their beds by people who thought they might perhaps find under them "a crock of gold."¹ That treasure-seekers have in many instances overthrown these crosses, and displaced the stones in which they were fixed, seems from the absence of any other apparent motive for their disturbance, to be not at all unlikely.

Looking down the valley of the Mew in a direction west by south, we get a good view of Down Tor, with Sheepstor beyond it. West-north-west is seen Lether Tor, and a little to the right of it Sharp Tor, which is situated not far off the Plymouth and Princetown Road.

Childe's Tomb. Proceeding once more along the old road in an easterly direction, we shall soon reach the ravine already observed, and here, near its head, our track crosses the Devonport leat at Older Bridge. Making our way up the rising ground in front of us, the path will soon bring us once more very near to Siward's Cross, from which, as I have already stated, Fox Tor is visible, and towards that spot we shall now direct our steps.

The road goes on to the White Works, an abandoned mine, where are several cottages, but we shall leave it on our left hand, and proceed direct to the cross. This, we shall now perceive, very probably served to point out the direction,

¹ On Dartmoor they call these stones *troughs*, to which they bear a great resemblance.

not only of the Abbots' Way, but also of the path which we are pursuing.

Not far to the eastward is a very extensive piece of boggy ground known as Fox Tor Mire, but we shall keep along on the slope of the hill to the right of it, and thus avoid it.

On nearing Fox Tor, a fairly hard tract, free from heather, will be seen stretching from the foot of it towards the bog. Our path lies across this, and when nearly opposite the tor, and about a quarter of a mile to the northward of it, we shall discover an object which cannot fail to be regarded with interest by all who find an attraction in the legendary lore of Dartmoor.

This is Childe's Tomb, and it is on this spot the hunter of the old tradition is supposed to have perished.

We first meet with the story of Childe in the pages of Risdon, whose *Survey* was completed in 1630, and the tale is still frequently related by the dwellers on the moor.

“ And when the Christmas tale goes round
By many a peat fire-side,
The children list, and shrink to hear
How Childe of Plymstoke died ! ” ¹

Risdon says, “ It is left us by tradition that one Childe, of Plimstoke, a man of fair possessions, having no issue, ordained, by his will, that where-soever he should happen to be buried, to that church his lands should belong. It so fortun'd, that he riding to hunt in the forest of Dartmore,

¹ Carrington. Ballad of *Childe the Hunter*.

being in pursuit of his game, casually lost his company, and his way likewise. The season then being so cold, and he so benumbed therewith, as he was enforced to kill his horse, and embowelled him, to creep into his belly to get heat : which not able to preserve him, was there frozen to death ; and so found, was carried by Tavistoke men to be buried in the church of that abbey ; which was not so secretly done but the inhabitants of Plimstoke had knowledge thereof ; which to prevent, they resorted to defend the carriage of the corpse over the bridge, where, they conceived, necessity compelled them to pass. But they were deceived by a guile ; for the Tavistoke men forthwith built a slight bridge, and passed over at another place without resistance, buried the body, and enjoyed the lands ; in memory whereof the bridge beareth the name of *Guilebridge* to this day.”¹

Further on, in his mention of Dartmoor, Risdon speaks of “ three remarkable things ” existing there, and says “ The second is Childe’s, of Plimstock’s tomb . . . which is to be seen in the moor, where he was frozen to death, whereon these verses were once to be read :

‘ They fyrste that fyndes and bringes mee to my grave,
The priorie of Plimstoke they shall have ! ’ ”²

The tomb continued perfect until about the year 1812, when it was nearly destroyed by the workmen of a Mr. Windeatt, who was building a farm-house near by. In the notes to Carrington’s *Dartmoor*,

¹ *Survey of Devon*, pp. 198, 199, Edit. 1811.

² *Ibid* p. 223.

published in 1826, it is said to have consisted of a pedestal formed by three steps. The lower one was composed of four stones, six feet long by twelve inches square, and the upper ones of eight stones more, which, of course, were smaller. On this was an octagonal basement about three feet high, with a cross fixed upon it.¹ The writer of the notes also states that "a socket and groove for the cross, and the cross itself, with its shaft broken, are the only remains of the tomb," and further says that no one recollected any traces of an inscription on it.

We shall first of all examine the tomb, and I shall then point out where most of the stones which composed it may now be found, as I have been fortunate enough to discover them. Ere long I trust that this old monument will be restored to something like its ancient appearance, as the Association to which I have referred in the preface, will not cease in their good work of restoring these relics until it is brought to a completion.

The tomb itself is simply a large kistvaen, of which one of the end-stones, and the cover-stone have been removed. It is situated on a little mound, and there are appearances which seem to indicate that this was surrounded by a circle of upright stones, in the same manner as the other kistvaens on the moor. This mound must have

¹ In the churchyard of Llanwenarth, near Abergavenny in Monmouthshire, is an ancient cross on a base and pedestal formed by steps, which struck me immediately I saw it, as presenting much the same appearance as the erection over Childe's Tomb must have done. A drawing of the latter accompanies the description in Carrington's *Dartmoor*.

been about fifteen feet in diameter, but it is not possible to take a correct measurement, as it is so dilapidated, several heaps of sod lying on one side of it—doubtless thrown up by the despoilers of the tomb.

One side and one end of the kistvaen remain in their primitive condition. The side consists of a large block, five feet six inches long by two feet five inches in depth, and having a thickness of about ten inches. The stone which formed the other side is lying at the bottom of the kist, and is not quite so long as its fellow. The end-stone measures two feet eight inches in length, the depth of it being about the same as the large one.

These stones appear to have been artificially shaped, the kistvaen not being of such rude construction as the examples generally found. The plan of it, however, is precisely similar, but it is evidently of less antiquity.

There are several versions of the couplet which Risdon says was once engraven on the tomb, but in them no mention of a priory is made. Instead of this, "lands" are spoken of, an alteration that later writers probably considered necessary when they saw that the retention of the word "priorie" would cause the story to be looked upon with suspicion, as we have no knowledge of the existence of any Priory of Plymstock. It is, of course, possible that lands in that parish may have been left to Tavistock Abbey in the manner mentioned in the tradition, but if so, it was probably at an early period, for the manor was already in the possession of that house at the time of the Domesday Survey.

Risdon does not give us any hint as to the date of the occurrence, but Prince states that Childe is supposed to have lived in the reign of Edward III, but for what reason such a supposition existed, we do not know.

Although Risdon tells us that Childe was buried at Tavistock, yet he calls this monument on the moor, a tomb, and such it undoubtedly was. If, however, we are to believe that Childe found a grave at the abbey, for what purpose was this tomb on Dartmoor constructed? We might imagine that the "luckless hunter" being found frozen to death, was interred on the spot by those who discovered him, in ignorance of who he was; and that afterwards, on his identity becoming known, the monks of Tavistock opened the tomb, and seized his body, having first invented the story of his will, in order to obtain possession of his lands, and that they then raised the monument over the grave where he had first been buried. The fact, however, of the stones of the kistvaen having had a certain amount of labour expended on them, seems to preclude the idea of a hasty burial, such as we should imagine would have taken place on the body of a stranger found on the moor.

It is possible that some confusion respecting the name may have arisen, Childe, doubtless, being the same as the Saxon Cild, a not uncommon appellation. Risdon only relates the story as a tradition, and as there is not the slightest evidence forthcoming in confirmation of it, we can only look upon it as a version of some old legend.

As to the name of Guile Bridge, Mr. A. J. Kempe

suggests that by this nothing more is implied than the *Guild* bridge, "particularly as it leads immediately to the guildhall of Tavistock,"¹ and there is much more probability of the correctness of this derivation, than of the punning origin of the name as recorded by Risdon.

Lying near the mound on which the kistvaen is situated, are three stones which have been hewn into shape, and one of them is rudely sculptured. Unfortunately it is broken, only about one-half of it now remaining. It is the base in which the cross was fixed, the socket sunk in it still remaining in part. There is much more design about it than appears from the vignette in Carrington's *Dartmoor*, which, however, in its main features is, I do not doubt, a correct representation of the tomb. The stone measures two feet three inches across its base, which was probably square. At the distance of thirteen inches from the bottom, the corners are bevelled, which must here have given the stone an octagonal shape, and five inches higher the whole of the sides are chamfered. This is continued to the top of the stone, the slope measuring five inches.

The socket on the top has one entire side remaining, which is eleven inches across, and the greatest part of another, measuring nine inches, while what is left of a third side is not very much. In depth it is five inches.

Not far from this stone is another, with smoothed surfaces, measuring three feet seven inches in length, and about thirteen inches square. On one side it

¹ *Notices of Tavistock and its Abbey*, p. 17.

is not smoothed throughout, a portion in the centre occupying about a third of its length being left in its natural state. This stone, I consider, to be one of those that formed the upper step of the pedestal, and this latter side was evidently the inner one, which there was no need to square, as it would be out of sight. It could not, however, be left in its rough state entirely, it being necessary that it should be cut at the ends in order that the stones which ran at right angles to it, might fit closely against it. This upper step of the pedestal, this stone shows us to have been about three feet and a half square.

The third stone lying here is at the opposite side of the mound, and is a much smaller one. Its measurement is one foot five inches, by one foot six inches, and like the other it has been smoothed and squared. It has evidently been broken off from another piece, probably one of the larger stones that was used in the construction of the pedestal.

Such, at the present time, is all that remains on the spot of the venerable old monument. Early in the present century it was standing in the solitude of the moor, the storms and wild buffetings of the hundreds of winters that had passed over it, having left it uninjured. But the rude spoliator came, and that which time had spared, speedily fell beneath his hand. The contemplation of the ruins to-day, cannot but cause regret and sorrow to the lover of our antiquities, and a feeling of indignation will not allow itself to be suppressed, when we reflect upon the wanton destruction of this ancient sepulchre.

The writer of the notes to Carrington's *Dartmoor*

states that some of the stones of the tomb were appropriated for building and doorsteps, but from what I have been able to discover, I do not think many of them were taken to the farmhouse. The steps forming the pedestal consisted of twelve stones, as already stated, and of these we have seen one lying near the kistvaen. Three, I have been informed, did serve the purpose of steps at the farm, though I have not been fortunate enough to discover them, but the remaining eight, I am glad to be able to state, are still to be found, and are, happily, uninjured.

Between the farmhouse (which is now a ruin, having been abandoned for several years), and the tor, a small stream runs down to fall into the Swincombe river just below. Not far from the house a rude bridge spans this stream, composed of stones laid side by side, and reaching from one bank to the other, for the rivulet is here of no great width. These stones are eight in number, and without doubt, are those which formed the pedestal of the tomb of the "Nimrod of the moor."

On making enquiries about the tomb some time ago, a moor-man of the south quarter, whom I have known for several years, and who was born at Fox Tor farmhouse about sixty-four years since, informed me that these stones were always pointed out to him as having belonged to the tomb, and he said he had heard that there were letters on the under side of them.

This, of course, greatly interested me, and I was in hopes that I should find traces of the couplet which Risdon says was once to be seen on the monument on the moor.

A careful examination of these stones, made by raising them from their bed and minutely scrutinizing all their surfaces, satisfied me, certainly, that they once belonged to the tomb, but at the same time, convinced me that they had never borne any inscription whatever.

The longest of these stones measures seven feet and a half ; two are seven feet, one is six feet ten inches, and another is six feet four inches in length, while the three shortest are about five feet three inches each. The largest are about twenty inches in width, but not quite so much in thickness, and the smaller ones are about fourteen or fifteen inches wide.

Three of these stones have the surface which is now uppermost squared at the ends, leaving a roughness in the middle of them in precisely the same manner as the single stone we have examined lying by the kistvaen. The rest are rough and rugged on the surface now exposed, but underneath they are all squared, and some have the sides so treated.

The reason for placing the plain surfaces under, by the constructors of the bridge, was, I presume, to get them to bear better on the buttresses, and the rough upper surface it was probably intended to cover with soil and gravel so as to form a roadway. The bridge is about twelve feet wide.

There cannot be a doubt that we have nine stones out of the twelve which formed the lower part of this old monument, and the three which were used for steps at the farmhouse may not be beyond recovery. From what I can gather these

were about the same size as the single one now at the tomb. The stones lying across the stream may without much difficulty be conveyed back to their places, and the tomb be re-constructed from the vignette, fresh ones being substituted for the three that are missing, in the event of further search for them proving fruitless.¹ A piece can be fashioned to replace the missing portion of the socket-stone, and the whole will then be complete with the exception of the cross.

Where is this cross? In the notes to Carrington's *Dartmoor*, as we have seen, it is stated that it was lying by the tomb, with its shaft broken, but the moor-man I have alluded to, tells me that he never remembers seeing anything of the kind there, so it must have been removed long ago. A mutilated cross which we shall presently examine, and which is about half a mile from the tomb, may be possibly the remains of that which formerly stood on the top of it; at all events, I would suggest that it be set upon a shaft, and fixed in the socket-stone, so as to complete the restoration of this ancient tomb without importing more new work into it than is absolutely necessary.

The Rev. J. P. Jones in his *Observations on the Antiquities in the Neighbourhood of Moreton-hampstead*, published in 1823, says that a gentleman lately informed him that a cairn three miles south

¹ The bridge is now of no service, the stream having washed away a portion of the bank just above it, and formed a fresh channel for itself. A new one, if such were necessary, could easily be constructed, as there are stones in plenty lying all around the spot.

of the prison had been pointed out to him as Childe of Plymstock's tomb. A cross formerly stood on it, but was lying near the cairn, a great part of which was destroyed.

Three miles south of the prison would be somewhere about Down Tor, which we noticed near the bank of the Mew above Kingsett, but I cannot learn of any cross there. Childe's Tomb is really about three miles, or rather more, to the south-east of the prison, and I think it probable that the Rev. J. P. Jones's informant must have given the situation of the place incorrectly, and that the tomb under Fox Tor was what was shown him. At that time—about 1823—the cross probably lay beside the mound on which the kistvaen is formed, and it might have been covered with rubbish thrown up by the spoilers, so that what he saw would seem to be nothing more than a dilapidated cairn.

Some of the moor-men speak of Cater's Beam as being the spot where Childe perished, and will tell you that he endeavoured to cross the dangerous morass which extends from that hill over the high ground of the south quarter of the forest, and having spurred his horse into the bog could not extricate himself. This story, however, is only a distortion of the legend, for the tomb was constructed according to tradition on the spot where the hunter lost his life.

Whatever may be the truth of the tale of Childe of Plymstock, it is certain that something of importance was attached to this old tomb, or we should not have found such a monument erected over it.

As we stand beside the wreck that now remains, we shall feel a melancholy pleasure in giving the rein to our imagination, and looking round upon the lonely spot, endeavour to picture it as the "highland hunter" beheld it in the gloom of that winter evening, when the furious storm beat over him, and, exhausted and weary, he halted beneath the tor, and felt he would never reach his home—

"For far and wide the highland lay
One pathless waste of snow ;—
He paused !—the angry heaven above,
The faithless bog below." ¹

No shelter is at hand, and death stares the bold hunter in the face. But love of life is strong within him, and it flashes into his mind that he may slay his horse, and by creeping within its disembowelled body, shield himself from the wintry blast. He gazes upon the trusty steed, and the hand which clasps his hunting knife falls powerless by his side. He cannot take the life of that noble animal which has so often borne him over the wide moor. With his head bent low before the raging storm he is pressing close to his master's side, as if for protection, and Childe feels a choking sensation in his throat as he regards him. But the snow is now deep around them, and further hesitation will involve the hunter's death. Turning away his face that he may not meet the animal's eye as he strikes the blow, Childe plunges his blade into the heart of the faithful brute—

¹ Carrington. Ballad of *Childe the Hunter*.

“ And on the ensanguined snow that steed
 Soon stretched his noble form ;—
 A shelter from the biting blast—
 A bulwark to the storm :—
 In vain—for swift the bleak wind piled
 The snow-drift round the corse ;
 And Death his victim struck within
 The disembowell’d horse.” ¹

Crosses in Fox Tor New-Take. Bidding adieu to this spot, we shall cross the brook which flows down in front of the ruined farm-house, and mount the hill on the opposite side.

An old path, known as Sandyway,² runs near here, which, coming up from Fox Tor Mire, goes by way of Avon Head to Holne, and is a shorter route to that place than the one we find marked out by the crosses. We leave the farmhouse on our left, and soon reach the eastern corner of the new-take, where close beside the boundary of it we shall find a very perfect cross.

I took the dimensions of it in the summer of 1878, when it was lying on the ground, in an opening in the wall of the enclosure. It is six feet in height, and two feet four inches across the arms. From the upper surface of these to the top of the shaft

¹ *Ibid.*

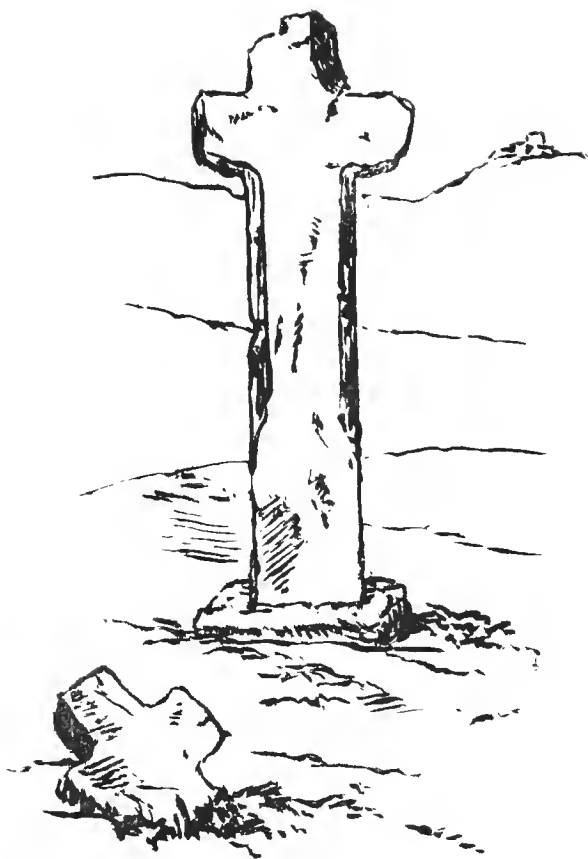
² The portion of ground which lies between the base of Fox Tor, the Swincombe river, and the stream that runs in front of the ruined farm-house, and in which Childe’s Tomb is situated, is known to the Moor-men as Sandparks. Whether this name has any connection with that of this path I am unable to say. Being ground that belonged to the farm, it is not improbable that it is merely a modern name bestowed on it by those who formed the enclosures.

the distance is nine inches. One of the top corners of the shaft is not square, but there is no appearance of a fracture, so that this want of uniformity seems to be owing to the natural shape of the stone. The corners of the shaft on one side are chamfered at a distance of one foot six inches from the bottom. The angles of this cross are not sharply cut, and it has rather a rude appearance. A few yards from it, fixed firmly in the ground, with which its upper surface was level, was the stone on which it had been set up, with a socket of sufficient size to receive the shaft, and of a depth of five inches.

On again visiting the spot in 1879, I was greatly pleased at finding this cross erect, but what was my regret when on passing it in May, 1881, I found it was once more prostrate, and now lay beside the socket-stone. For a few years it remained in this ignoble position, but in 1885 it was set up, through the instrumentality of the Dartmoor Preservation Association, to which I have referred in the preface (see also Appendix A.) and the care which was taken to secure it firmly in its socket will afford us reason to believe that it will not again be displaced, nor the antiquary be saddened at seeing it lying neglected on the turf.

We can see the spot where Siward's Cross stands, and shall notice that it bears nearly due west from this cross ; a line drawn from one to the other would pass almost close to Childe's Tomb.

Being on this spot in May, 1881, as I have just mentioned, I found the opening in the wall had been built up, and the workmen in obtaining stones for the purpose had unearthed the remains of



CROSSES IN FOX TOR NEW-TAKE.
HEIGHT OF ERECT CROSS—SIX FEET.

another cross. It consists of the top part of the shaft, with one complete arm, and a portion of the other, and it had evidently been buried for some time. It does not appear to have been quite so large as the one just described. From the top of the shaft to the point of fracture it measures one foot nine inches, and from the extremity of the uninjured arm to the end of the remaining portion of the other, it is two feet one inch. It is this cross which I suggest should be furnished with a shaft, and set up on the tomb, for, as I have observed, there is a possibility that it may be the very one that once was reared on the grave in the plain below, for there is nothing improbable in supposing that in forming the enclosures of Fox Tor farm it may have been conveyed to the spot where we now find it.

Crosses on Terhill. We shall now mount the slope in front of us, still pursuing an easterly direction, and soon reach a grassy track, not very plainly marked, except for a short distance, but yet discernible in its course among the heather, on one side of which we shall observe a cross set in the ground. This is also one of those which was rescued from its recumbent position on the turf in 1885, and of which an account is given in the Appendix.

It formerly lay beside another cross, which we shall notice, now standing erect, rather more than a hundred yards further on. I give the measurements of this cross as I took them before it was set in an upright position. Its shaft is broken, and a part of

this, though perhaps not much, is missing from the middle of it. It appears to have been about the same size as the one beside which it was found, the width across the arms being precisely the same, namely, two feet two inches.¹ The upper portion of the shaft measures about three feet, and the lower portion two feet six inches. Immediately under the arms it is eleven inches wide, and above them narrows a little towards the top.

Directing our steps to the other cross, we shall find it to be a very fine one, and in a complete state, with the exception of having had a small piece broken off from the corner of the shaft. Its height is six feet six inches, the measurement having been taken when it lay upon the turf, and its breadth across the arms has just been stated. The depth of these is nine inches, and from their upper surface to the top of the shaft, the distance is thirteen inches. The width of the shaft is about ten inches, and the thickness of it about two inches less.

The farmer at Sherburton, an estate situated on the tongue of land which is peninsulated by the Swincombe river and the West Dart, a few years ago removed this cross, and set it up in the courtyard of his farm. The Duchy authorities, however, caused him to carry it back again to this spot, but instead of having it placed erect, allowed it to be cast on the ground, in which ignoble position it remained until raised in 1885. The injury to the

¹ Since the re-erection of this cross, one of its arms has unfortunately been broken off. *Vide* Appendix A.

shaft, which fortunately is only trifling, was probably done in removing it, the fracture being evidently of recent date.

The stone in which the socket is sunk measures three feet three inches, by two feet five inches, and the depth of the latter was four inches (which was slightly increased when the cross was set up in it), and of a size sufficient to receive the shaft.

The track, which it is my belief the line of crosses we have been following was set up to define the direction of, is here very plainly to be discerned. This is, however, owing in a very great measure to the fact that this portion of the pathway has been used during the present century. I have learned in the neighbourhood that when the farm-house near Fox Tor was built, the timber used in its construction was drawn to its site by a team of oxen along this route, and that it is this comparatively recent traffic that we see the marks of now. The grass and the heather have, in many places, long since grown over and obliterated the marks made by the passing to and fro of the ancient wayfarer, but the crosses which here and there are found, point out their existence to us, and in this present instance we see the old road indicated by them, made use of after the lapse of several centuries.

A fine view of the central parts of the moor is presented from the high ground on which we now stand, and which is known in the vicinity as Terhill. Numerous hills and tors, which, as yet, we have not seen in our rambles, now meet our gaze, with many other objects of interest. Princetown lies about north-west, and Prince Hall, the former residence

of Judge Buller, with its plantations of fir, is seen nearer to us, in a northerly direction. Away to the right Bellaford Tor forms a striking object, and near it is seen Laugh or Lough Tor, below which Dunnabridge Pound will be discerned, the enclosure to which all cattle in this quarter of the moor are driven, when found straying at the time of the forest drifts.

Numerous scattered moor-farms, with here and there a clump of firs, and long lines of grey walls meet the eye, for from this spot we look upon the cultivated portion of Dartmoor. Surrounding this are lofty hills, barren and rocky. Hameldon looks huge and majestic, and as we turn towards the north-east, Yar Tor, Sharp Tor and Mill Tor, three eminences which rise above the left bank of the Dart, strike us with their fine appearance. The rising ground does not permit us to extend our view towards the south, but even if this were otherwise, we should see nothing in that direction but one dreary expanse of boggy land untrodden in many places by the foot of man or animal.

Crosses on Down Ridge. Turning towards the east we shall observe a hollow, which is known as Skir Gut, down which flows a small stream. This is the Wobrook, which rising not very far from Avon Head, runs in the opposite direction to that river, and after a course of no great length, passes under Saddle Bridge, and empties itself into the West Dart at a short distance below the hamlet of Hexworthy.

We shall notice that the stream makes an abrupt

turn towards the east, as we descend the eastern side of Terhill. Below the bend the rising ground on the left bank is known as Down Ridge, and it is towards this we must now make our way.

On gaining the bottom of the descent, a path will be observed pursuing a course at right angles to the direction which we are following, and crossing the Wobrook at a place called Skir Ford, immediately where the stream turns so abruptly. This old path runs from Hexworthy to Avon Head, and is used by the farmers to bring in their peat.

Leaving the stream a little to the right, we shall notice several small heaps of stones, placed at intervals along the slope. These little mounds which are met with in various parts of Dartmoor, are called by the moor-men *stannaburrows*, which name is probably derived from the same root as the word *stannary*, and they were probably tin bounds set up by the miners. After passing several of these mounds we shall reach one by the side of which is the cross referred to in the Appendix as having been clamped together and set up at the same time the two we have just been examining were restored, but which owing to no socket stone having yet been prepared for it, is again lying on the turf. The upper portion of the shaft, having the arms complete, lay for years beside the mound, but in 1883 I asked a farmer who lives at Hexworthy to set it up on the mound, which he did. The lower portion of it measuring about three feet in length lay near by partly buried in the soil. The two pieces are now clamped together, and only await a socket to be excavated in some large

stone to receive the shaft, when this old cross will once more stand in an erect position.

The dimensions of the upper portion are three feet in length, and rather more than one foot in width, with a thickness of nearly eight inches. The arms are two feet five inches across, and ten inches deep. The fracture runs in an oblique direction across the middle of the shaft. The top of this cross rises about seven or eight inches above the arms, and it is worn away a good deal, in fact, the cross has altogether a very weather-beaten look.

The hill on the southern side of the stream is known as Skir, and here the remains of extensive mining operations are observed near the right bank of the little river. One old working is of considerable depth, and is called in the neighbourhood the Henroost. Opposite us a gully will be seen running up the side of the hill, the bottom of which is covered with the works of the tanners, and is known as Hooten Wheals; more to the left in a direction south-south-east, we shall observe another known as Dry Lakes.¹

An opening between the hills towards the east enables us to see Buckland Beacon above Holne Chase, with the downs gradually rising behind it,

¹ Probably derived from *Terhi*, to break. Mr. Spence Bate points out that Dry Lake, on the Erme, is very likely so derived, "the banks being broken and worked for tin," which is also the case at the place in question. In the Forest Perambulation of 1240 we find the spot mentioned as "Dryworke," and in that of 1609, as "Drylake al's Dryewoorke," shewing that at the latter period it was known by the same name as it now bears, but that it had also not lost its former appellation.

and Rippon Tor lifting its lofty crest above them. A little beyond is seen Saddle Tor, and further distant still the conspicuous piles of Hey Tor.

Looking in a direction nearly due east, we shall observe on the brow of the hill, on the further side of the Wobrook, a small mound, within a few score yards of which we shall presently find the remains of another of the interesting objects of which we are in search. Between it, however, and the cross we have just been examining, and lying almost in a straight line between the two, is another, pointing us immediately to the fording place over the stream. We shall at once proceed to an inspection of this relic, which is within a few hundred yards of the spot on which we stand.

For many years I was unable to satisfy myself as to the truth of a second cross existing on Down Ridge. I had been frequently informed by an inhabitant of the moor, who lives at Hexworthy, that such was the case, and made many searches for it, but always without success. I made many enquiries, too, but the result of these tended rather to convince me that my informant was labouring under some mistake, and that the cross which we knew to be on that hill had at some time been mistaken by him for another. My informant, however, although he had never been able to describe the spot where it lay, and confessed that he had not seen it for a very long time, was convinced of the correctness of his assertion, and made a search for it in the summer of 1884, with the result that he re-discovered it, and told me of the circumstance. It consisted of the head and arms, with only a small

portion of the shaft ; and as it lay prone upon the ground, with the heather springing up around it, it was almost concealed from view.

On measuring it, I found that from the top of the shaft to the fracture, which is just below the arms, it was no more than two feet ; across the arms it was three inches more than this, and eleven inches from the upper surface of the arms to the top of the head, this latter being one foot in width. Seven inches is the distance which the arms project from the shaft, and the thickness of this cross is eight inches. Buried in the earth close by was a portion of the broken shaft.

Descending to the stream, which at the foot of Dry Lakes makes another abrupt turn, we shall reach the crossing place, to which the traveller of days gone by was directed by this roughly hewn stone. This is known by the name of Horse Ford, and is paved with flat stones, which would seem to indicate that a considerable amount of traffic at one time passed this way. On one of these, on the east side of the ford, is cut a large letter H, denoting the boundary of the parish of Holne, which we have now reached, for on passing over the Wobrook we are no longer in the forest, that stream forming its limits in this part of its course.

Mr. Spence Bate in a paper on the *Etymology of Dartmoor Names*, in the fourth volume of the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association*, where he contends for an early Scandinavian occupation of Dartmoor, traces by means of the names of places in the quarter of the moor we have now reached, a path from Skir Gut to the enclosed

country at Dean, by way of the hill marked on the Ordnance map as Fieldfare, Rider's Hill, and Wallaford Down.

Horn's Cross. Leaving Horse Ford and mounting a steep acclivity we shall very soon find ourselves near the mound which we observed from Down Ridge, and within a short distance of this, on our right as we proceed, we shall find a socket-stone, and the remains of a cross known in the neighbourhood as Horn's Cross. It has been very sadly mutilated, nothing but a small portion of the upper part of the shaft, with one complete arm, and what appears to be a piece of the other, now remaining. It is, however, uncertain whether what presents the appearance of an arm may not really be the top of the shaft. This piece is one foot ten inches across, and the other is but one foot four inches. The width of the former is ten inches, and of the latter piece nine inches, the thickness of it being eight inches. A small fragment of stone, probably a portion of the shaft, lies near it.

The socket-stone is two feet eleven inches by two feet nine inches, the socket itself measuring one foot two and a half inches, by ten and a half inches, the depth of it being nine inches. From the size of this socket it is evident that the shaft of the cross must have been a great deal wider at the base than at the arms. The stone has been disturbed, being now in a slanting position, and only partly buried in the ground.

Our way is here seen as a distinctly-marked path, and is crossed by another, which is now used by

the moor farmers in going from the neighbourhood of Hexworthy to Brent. This latter track runs from Cumston or Cumsdon Tor, to the higher part of the old working connected with Ringle shutts Mine, and crossing the path which goes to Avon Head and Fox Tor Mire, makes for the little stream which flows down to Scoriton. This it crosses at a place named Hapstead Ford, and from thence trending along the side of the hill called Snowdon, passes the bottom of a rocky gully known to the moor-men as Snowdon Hole, and so onward by Puppets to very near the enclosures adjoining Hayford. Here the Abbots' Way must have passed, although it is not traceable across the turf at this particular spot, but is plainly to be seen at the ford below Brock Hill Mire, as already mentioned, which is not very far on our right hand, and on the left a track pointing towards Dean Burn, and running close to the wall of the enclosures seems to be the remains of it. The path to Brent goes onward to the enclosed country at Dockwell Gate.

It is very probable that Horn's Cross was erected on the spot where we now find it lying in a shattered condition, to mark this path as well as the one which we have followed from Lowery, and which we shall be able to trace to a ford known as Workman's Ford, not far below Ringle shutts Mine, from whence it doubtless went direct to Holne.

My discoverer of the cross on Down Ridge near the ford, tells me that he believes there is one between Horn's Cross and Holne Moor Gate, but he is not so positive of this as he was of the existence of the other, and it is unnecessary for me to say

that all search for it has hitherto been unsuccessful. This line of crosses can be traced off the moor on the eastern side, and I am not quite certain whether I may not assert the same with respect to the western side as well, but as these pages comprehend a description of those only which belong to Dartmoor, such as are not situated within its borders do not come within the range of my remarks.

The Coffin Stone. We shall now leave the path which has brought us to Horn's Cross and follow that which leads to Cumston Tor, close to which we shall gain the high road from Ashburton to Tavistock.

Cumston Tor, though of no great size, is curious, the layers of granite resting upon one another in a very regular manner. The view from it of the valley at Dartmeet is exceedingly fine, but we shall not linger to admire it, as another opportunity of observing it will shortly present itself, so we shall descend the hill to Saddle Bridge, which spans the Wobrook, not far above its confluence with the West Dart. Here an old road may be seen passing down the right bank of the Wobrook, and crossing the Dart at a ford known as Week Ford, and from thence running onward through the enclosures of Huccaby Farm. It is not unlikely that a track led down from Horse Ford by the side of the Wobrook to Saddle Bridge, and that this road was a continuation of it.

Proceeding by the hamlet of Hexworthy to Hexworthy Bridge, we shall cross the West Dart, and follow the road, with Huccaby farmhouse on

one side of us, and on the other the little moorland sanctuary of St. Raphael's, close to which the old track coming up from Week Ford joins the present highway. From Huccaby our course will take us to Dartmeet, where after pausing on the bridge to admire the lovely surroundings, we shall commence the ascent of the hill before us.

When at some distance from the foot, the road makes a considerable sweep to the left but we shall follow a green path, which leading straight up the acclivity, greatly lessens the distance to the top. About mid-way up this velvety track we shall reach an object which is known in the neighbourhood as the Coffin Stone, and which I have included among the relics we are now investigating in consequence of its surface bearing several incised crosses.

It is situated immediately beside the path, and consists in reality of two stones, though these were evidently one at some period, having probably been rent asunder, by some convulsion of nature.¹

One of the stones,—the higher one,—has six small crosses cut on it, and the letters *SI*, to which has recently been added the letters *SC* with another small cross above them, and also the letters *AC*. There are also appearances of other letters, but none plain enough to be now decipherable. The other stone has the letters *IB* and *IP* of somewhat

¹ Numbers of stones are found in this state, on the moor. A superstition connected with them is noticed in an extremely interesting little work, entitled, *Dartmoor and its Borders*, by "Tickler," :—"Our kind guide pointed out a stone, 'rent in twain,' which he said occurred, in all probability, when Jesus was crucified." Page 74.

larger size, with but two crosses graven on it. The larger of these stones measures eight feet and a half long, by about three feet in width, the other being six feet long and about three and a half feet across at its widest part ; this latter is triangular in shape.

The Coffin Stone is so called in consequence of its having long been customary to rest the coffin here, when a corpse is being carried to Widecombe-in-the-Moor for burial. The letters are the initials of some of those whose remains have here been placed for a while when on the journey to the tomb.¹ I have seen the mourners grouped around this stone, in the quiet stillness of a summer afternoon, while the bearers rested in their toilsome ascent. The blue sky clear and cloudless, the river below laughing in the sunshine, all nature looking bright and joyous, but failing to cheer those hearts saddened and filled with woe.

We shall obtain a fine view of the vale above Dartmeet, from this spot, and shall not fail to admire its beauties. Various kinds of trees fringe the opposite bank of the stream, and with the enclosures of Brimpts form a striking contrast to the rugged steep on this side of the river, where are numerous rude stone remains, scattered among the natural rocks which are thickly strewn around.

¹ The letters which have been recently cut upon the higher stone are commemorative of the funerals of Samuel Caunter of Dartmeet, and Aaron Cleave of Hexworthy, both young men whom I very well knew. For some time I read the letters on the lower stone as T R and T P, but a few years since they were freshly cut, and the moss scraped off from some parts of the surface of the stone, and they are now plainly to be read as I have rendered them,

The hill is crowned with the granite peak of Yar Tor, which towers high above the narrow vale.

Continuing our way up the green path we shall soon regain the road at the summit of Dartmeet Hill, when a very fine prospect will reward us for the toil of the ascent. Rising grandly on the further side of the head of the combe which is now before us, is a tor of a conical shape, whose fine proportions, viewed from this spot, cannot fail to impress the beholder. This is Sharp Tor, a distant view of which we were able to obtain from Down Ridge, but we now behold it to great advantage. It lifts its head high above the valley down which rushes the silvery Dart, the granite rocks which compose its rugged crest seeming to thrust themselves out of the heathery and furze-covered base.

At the bottom of the little valley, or combe, which lies between us and the tor, and which slopes down to the river on our right, are the scanty remains of a small house, known by the name of Eastcombe, the few bushes growing by the walls of the enclosure connected with it, flourishing well in this sheltered spot.

Between Sharp Tor and the river Dart is Rowbrook, a solitary farm-house, which, however, our present standpoint will not permit us to obtain a glimpse of. Here, lost amid the folding hills that rise precipitously from each bank of the river, and removed at some distance from the road, the existence of this secluded dwelling would never be suspected. And yet, isolated as it is, one is enabled on approaching it to fully endorse the sentiments

of that admired Devonshire writer, Richard John King, when, in describing an ancient hill farm, he so happily reminds us of the companionship it finds in the natural objects surrounding it.

“Thou art not lonely ; yet through all the vale
No neighbour roofs are gleaming to the sun.
Thou art not lonely ; for the ancient hills
Are clasping thee in love, and every stream
Telleth its own old tale of joy to thee.”¹

Turning in the direction from whence we have come, we shall observe the West Dart coursing down to meet its sister stream, the two branches of this noble river forming for a short distance above the point of their confluence the boundary of the forest. Extending our gaze to the horizon we shall plainly see North Hisworthy Tor, thus taking in at one view objects which mark the forest bounds on its eastern and western sides. At the foot of North Hisworthy the prisons at Princetown are just visible, the one dark spot on free and happy Dartmoor.

Did we wish to extend our range of vision, the summit of Yar Tor on our right would afford us a point from whence we might most conveniently do so.

As we follow the road we shall observe that the remains of village enclosures with scattered hut circles, which we observed on the slope of the hill near the Coffin Stone, extend to its summit and are continued down the slope on our right ; indeed they are to be found for some distance around us, this part of the moor affording examples of many kinds of pre-historic antiquities.

¹ Richard John King. *The Hill Farm.*

Ouldsbroom Cross. A short walk along the road will soon bring us to Ouldsbroom Cross, where the road diverges, the right hand branch leading to Ashburton by the way of Pound's Gate and New Bridge, and the other conducting the traveller to Widecombe-in-the-Moor, through the hamlet of Ponsworthy. This point was formerly marked by a granite cross, for my knowledge of which fact I am indebted to Mr. Robert Dymond, of Exeter, and Blackslade in the parish of Widecombe, as also for information regarding the place where it may now be found, for I am glad to be able to inform my readers that the old relic is not destroyed, though it has suffered somewhat in its removal from its original position, and in the process of adapting it to its present purpose. It now serves as a gate-post to the yard of Town Farm, which is situated just below the church at Leusdon, on the confines of the common, and very nearly two miles distant from this spot.

Mr. Dymond, informed me, on the authority of old William French, of the Higher Lodge, Spitchwick, who has spent all his life there, that this cross, when standing in its place on the moor, was fixed upon as the limit to which the French officers detained as prisoners of war at Princetown, at the commencement of the present century, were permitted to extend their walks on parole of honour.

It would seem that those prisoners located at Princetown who were allowed outside the prison walls on parole, were not restricted in their walks to such narrow limits as were those quartered in the various towns in the district, for in the latter

case they were not at liberty to go beyond one mile from the town, while here we find they could extend their perambulations to this old cross, which is more than seven miles distant by road from Princetown. The towns surrounding the moor in which prisoners on parole of honour were permitted to reside were Ashburton, Okehampton, Moretonhampstead and Tavistock. At the latter place there were one hundred and fifty prisoners on parole.¹

It is not unlikely that ere long Ouldsbroom Cross may once again stand on the spot from which unthinking hands removed it, for when hopes are expressed by so excellent an antiquary and preserver of our old monuments as the gentleman who called my attention to this cross, that he may be instrumental in effecting this object, there is not much room for doubting that so desirable an end will be attained.

Passing Ouldsbroom Farm we shall make our way towards Leusdon Church, in order to reach Town Farm, that we may see this old cross ere going further on our wanderings. We shall find it, as already stated, serving the purpose of a gate-post, and shall notice with regret that in the endeavour to make it suitable for such, one of the arms has been knocked completely off, while the other only projects about two inches from the shaft, the greatest

¹ The form of parole, together with a notice to the inhabitants of the towns where prisoners were quartered, may be seen in an interesting little book entitled *Dartmoor Prison: Past and Present*, written by Captain Vernon Harris, a recent Governor of the Convict Prison.

part of it having evidently been broken or chipped away.

On one of its faces—that nearest the lane—two large holes are drilled, as if for the reception of hinges, shewing that it has been put, or was intended to be put, to some other purpose than that which it now fulfils, for the gate is not hung to it, but simply fastens against it, the fastening being on that face of it which fronts the yard, or, what to the observer from the lane would be the back of it.

The measurements which I took of this cross shewed me that it now stands five feet nine inches above the ground, but there are probably two or three feet of the shaft below the surface, so that it would seem to be a large example. From the surface of the ground to the arms, the distance is three feet ten inches, and the depth of the latter is fourteen inches, the head rising above them another nine inches. Immediately below the arms this cross is sixteen inches in width, and lower down, at what is now its foot, is a little wider. Above the arms it narrows considerably, for there it is but ten inches, and it tapers slightly towards the top. It is about fourteen inches in average thickness.

It is a matter of congratulation that this old relic, to which no small interest attaches, has not been lost to us, nor its removal from its ancient site passed away from man's recollection, and the memory of it having stood by the wayside on the moor been forgotten. Soon, I trust, its native heather will once more bloom around it, and on the hill, by the cairn and the kistvaen, the symbol of that faith whose Founder has redeemed a lost and guilty

world, will again rear its head,—a ray of light flooding the rude vestiges of the dark superstitions of the past.

Crosses at Widecombe-in-the-Moor. Leaving Town Farm a short walk will bring us to the hamlet of Ponsworthy, and from thence we shall follow the lane to the village of Widecombe-in-the-Moor.

I have said that my account of these ancient crosses includes those only which are found on the moor itself, and not those of the border villages. But an exception must be made in the case of Widecombe, for although that village may now be reached without really entering on the moor, the valley in which it lies runs far up into it, and the place has always been so closely connected with it, that a description of the crosses of Dartmoor that did not include those of Widecombe, would certainly be incomplete.

Just before reaching the village we shall pass by the hamlet of Dunstone, where, on the green, is a large block of granite, from which it has been thought the place may possibly have taken its name. Here, in former times, the manor courts were held, and the chief rents were deposited in a hollow on this stone. Mr. Robert Dymond, the lord of this manor, resolved to revive this custom, and a few years ago an open air court was held here.

Close by the stone a cross formerly stood, but was removed some years since by the Rev. J. H. Mason, who was vicar of Widecombe from 1815 till his

death in 1860, and placed by him for preservation in the vicarage garden. It is now fixed at the end of a low wall, and over the lower portion of the shaft some ivy has spread itself, as if to shelter the grey old relic from the rude blasts of the neighbouring hills.

The cross, which is rather rudely cut, measures three feet less an inch in height, and across the arms is about one foot eleven inches. In depth the arms are nine inches, on the face which now fronts the garden. The width of the shaft above the arms is thirteen inches, but below them is greater by two inches. The shaft rises nine inches above the arms, and is about five inches in thickness close to their upper surface, but grows less towards the top. Below the arms the thickness of the shaft is about seven inches.

On one face there is an incised cross measuring about ten inches in height by five inches across. It is not placed between the arms, but below them, and is not in the centre of the shaft.

It is probable that in the olden days, the dwellers in this tor-surrounded combe resorted to this cross to offer their devotions, many a prayer perhaps having been breathed, and thanksgiving poured forth before it—

“This was the scene :—the old man there,
More motionless than sculptured stone ;
The moorland beacon wild and bare ;
And, high upraised in stillest air,
The cross against the western glare,
’Mid glory all its own.

“And, like the seraph strains which flow
From million harps or golden lyre,

Such words as these, good angels know,
Fell from that old man, grave and slow,
Borne upward through the evening glow,
As incense, high and higher :—

* * * * *

“ ‘Thou art ‘the same,’ for ever One ;
And Thy Great Sign shall never die,—
For when the circling years have run,
A Cross no human eye can shun
Shall e’en out-gleam both star and sun,
Bright on the eastern sky.’ ”¹

Near the gate of Widecombe churchyard we shall find the base of a cross standing in the centre of the green. The cross itself is gone, and in its place a small yew tree is growing.

This base consists of two steps and is octagonal in shape. A plinth about six inches high runs round the bottom, the sides of it varying from about four feet three inches in length, to a few inches more than this. The sides of the first step measure about four feet long, and those of the upper one average about three feet and a half. The steps are each one foot five inches in height, the measurement of the lower one being taken from the top of the plinth, and their edges project a little, after the manner of stairs in carpentry. The tread of the step is about one foot, and the diameter of the top of this basement is about eight feet and a half.

Around the plinth the ground is worn away, exposing the smaller stones which form the foundation of the structure.

¹ T. Vernon Wollaston. *Stat Crux Dum Volvitur Orbis. Lyra Devoniensis.*

Entering the churchyard we shall observe close to the south door of the church, a socket stone, with the lower part of the shaft of a cross fixed in it. This stone measures three feet six inches by three feet two inches, and at the bottom is quadrangular, but its upper edge is roughly formed into an octagon.

The broken shaft is about two feet seven inches in height, and at the top, measures eleven inches by nine and a half. The shape of it here is octagonal, as, at a short distance from the bottom, which is square, the corners are bevelled.

Built into the exterior of the east wall of the churchyard will be found two parts of a cross, one consisting of a piece of the shaft, and the other of the top of the same with the arms. These pieces are fixed one on the other, but the broken ends do not fit where placed together. Taking the measurement of them as one, I found the height to be three feet four inches, and the distance across the arms is two feet one inch, the depth of them being about ten inches, and the width of the shaft about the same.

The shape of these pieces is octagonal, like the shaft by the church door, but whether they were broken off from that, or are parts of the cross that formerly stood on the basement on the green, cannot, of course, be determined.

Mr. G. W. Ormerod has written a very interesting account of the *Wayside Crosses in the District bordering the East of Dartmoor*, in which he has given a description of these Widecombe crosses. This originally appeared in the *Transactions of the*

Devonshire Association, and has since been reprinted in a collection of archæological memoirs by the same gentleman.

We have a good deal of information about matters pertaining to this village in a book entitled *Things New and Old concerning the Parish of Widecombe-in-the-Moor*, edited by Mr. Robert Dymond, and it is there stated, that in January, 1876, in clearing some steps in the church which had formed the ascent to the rood-loft, but which for long years had been hidden from view behind a walled-up Gothic doorway, a piece of the shaft of the churchyard cross was discovered, measuring about twenty inches in length. At the same time three small granite crosses were found, each being twenty-nine inches high, one having an incised cross in the centre, between the arms.

The tower of the church of "Withycombe in the Dartmoores" will be sure to win our admiration, and on entering the fabric itself, the account which Prince has given of the great thunder-storm of 1638 will rush to our recollection. On a wooden tablet we may read the details of it, in rhyme, said to be written by one Hill, the village schoolmaster, who, it has been supposed, was related to Roger Hill, one of those who perished in the storm.

Cross on Rippon Tor. I would now have the reader accompany me from the quiet and secluded churchyard of Widecombe, up the steep hill on the eastern side of the valley, and across the commons, in order to ascend Rippon Tor, a lofty eminence not very far from the well-

known Hey Tor. On reaching the summit of this conspicuous frontier height we shall discover, at a distance of only thirty yards from the top of the cairn which crowns the hill, the object which has attracted us hither—a granite cross. I am indebted for my knowledge of this venerable relic to Mr. Spence Bate's work on the *Inscribed Stones and Ancient Crosses of Devon*, not having noticed it on the tor before my attention was drawn to it by a perusal of that work. It is totally unlike any other of the Dartmoor examples, inasmuch as it could never have been intended to be set up, for it is simply cut in relief on the upper surface of a large block of granite. On taking its measurements, I found its length to be six feet eight inches and the breadth of the shaft fifteen inches. The head rises the same number of inches above the arms, one of which is broken away, and the other is not very clearly cut; the bottom of the shaft is also somewhat broken. It stands out in relief about six inches from the surface of the rock on which it is carved.

From its situation near the summit of a tor, this cross, as Mr. Spence Bate observes, was evidently not intended as a mark to any path, "as most of the moorland crosses undoubtedly were." His opinion is that this symbol of the Christian faith was sculptured on the rock at a time when this sign was held to be all-powerful in freeing from evil those places where the mysterious rites of Pagan superstition had been observed, and that Rippon Tor may have been such a spot.

The view to be obtained from the summit of this

tor is of so charming and extensive a character that it demands we should choose clear and beautiful weather for the ascent, in order that we may lose none of its beauties. Rising as it does on the verge of Dartmoor, we have on one side a grand panorama of wooded hill and dale, and on the other a wide range of moor, with many a fine old tor uplifting its rocky crest to the sky. We shall not fail to be impressed with the wondrous natural beauties which everywhere meet the sight, nor with the power of that Great Being who has formed them and whose spirit breathes in everything around. How feelingly shall we here be able to echo the words of Cowper:

“There lives and works
A soul in all things, and that soul is God.
The beauties of the wilderness are His,
That make so gay the solitary place,
Where no eye sees them. And the fairer forms,
That cultivation glories in, are His.
He sets the bright procession on its way,
And marshals all the order of the year ;
He marks the bounds which winter may not pass,
And blunts its pointed fury ; in its case,
Russet and rude, folds up the tender germ
Uninjured, with inimitable art ;
And, ere one flowery season fades and dies,
Designs the blooming wonders of the next.”

Descending Rippon Tor to Newhouse, now simply a collection of ruined farm buildings, we shall proceed by the Chagford road on our right, to within a few yards of Hennesbury Gate, close

to which, in a corner formed by new-take walls, is an object upon which we must not omit to bestow a passing notice.

Mr. Dymond having been kind enough to call my attention to the fact that in the perambulation of his manor of Dunstone, this corner, which forms one of the boundary points, is named Stittleford's Cross, I made search on the spot for the purpose of ascertaining whether any traces of such an object were to be found there now. I was unsuccessful in discovering any cross of the ordinary character, but observed a stone fixed firmly in the ground, and forming part of the wall, bearing a small incised cross, with the letters R M immediately underneath it. The stone stands nearly three and a half feet above the ground, and is sixteen inches wide, the lines of the cross being six inches each way ; this also is the height of the letters.

On my communicating what I had observed to Mr. Dymond, that gentleman expressed his belief that the latter are the initials of Rawlin Mallock, who rather more than a century ago, laid claim to the lordship of the manor.

It seems probable that this stone was erected on the spot where an ancient cross once stood, but which had disappeared in all but the name at the time of the erection of this present boundary mark.

The name is somewhat similar to that of the farm of Chittleford, in the immediate vicinity, but whether it be a corruption of it or not, I am unable to say.

Hameldon Cross. Passing Hennesbury Gate, near which we shall notice a fine hut circle, known as Seven Lords' Land, it being the point where seven manors meet, we shall retrace our steps to Widecombe, our investigations taking us to Hameldon, a high and conspicuous hill which forms a barrier between this pleasant combe, and the open parts of the moor. We shall therefore leave the village by the road which leads to the head of the vale, but shall not follow it far. On our left we shall shortly perceive a very steep lane, and making our way up this shall reach a field, across which a path will take us to the commons.

Continuing our way up the ascent we shall observe, on gaining the summit, a wall extending along the lofty ridge, and carried at one part of its course over a barrow consisting of earth and stone. This barrow is known as Hameldon Beacon, and from this point some land-marks will serve as a guide to enable us to find an old cross which is situated on this hill.

Keeping the wall on our left hand, and proceeding in a direction nearly due north, Two Barrows will soon be reached. Here the wall is carried down the side of the hill to the left, but we shall continue our course towards another barrow, which we shall remark at a short distance off. This is Single Barrow, and from here we shall pass on to Broad Barrow, from the top of which, looking nearly north we shall see what from here appears like an ordinary granite post, but which we shall presently find to be an ancient cross.

From the Beacon to Broad Barrow we have been

able to feast our eyes at every step upon a view embracing the whole of the central parts of the moor, as well as of a number of prominent heights in both the northern and southern portions of it. To anyone wishing to gain some idea of the extent of Dartmoor, Hameldon offers the most advantageous point from which to obtain it. From Cosdon Beacon in the north-north-west, the eye ranges by a vast extent of moor round to Great Mistor in the west, and thence, taking in North Hisworthy Tor, we look to the south-west, to the dark hills of the southern quarter of the forest, and see in the far distance the Eastern Beacon on Ugborough Moor and near it the neighbouring peak of Brent Hill. Looking across the Widecombe valley we obtain a grand view of numerous rocky eminences, among which are—Hey Tor, Rippon Tor and Hound Tor, while nearer to us the noble heights of Honeybag and Chinkwell Tors, and Bonehill Rocks lift their lofty heads above the combe. The view is truly magnificent, and in whichever direction the observer turns, he is sure to be impressed with the grandeur of the surroundings, and the wild aspect of the desert range—

“Where the grey Tor, as in ages of yore,
Mocks the mad war of the storm on the Moor,
Bravely exposing its huge granite crest,
Or wrapt in a cloud like an angel at rest.”¹

We shall soon reach the old cross which is situated on the hill, just at the point where we sight the

¹ Capern. *Song of the Devonian.*

house belonging to Headland Warren in the valley below.

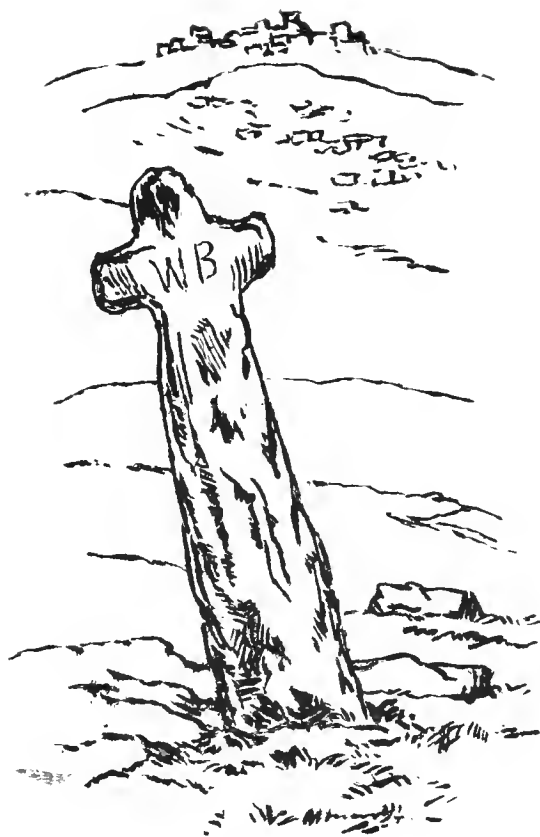
We shall find it to be a very rudely-fashioned one, formed out of a slab four feet four inches in height, the width of it immediately below the arms being one foot eight inches. One of the arms—the southerly one—is broken off, and lies on the ground near by. The depth of the remaining one close to the shaft is thirteen inches, but it is not nearly so much as this at its extremity. The top part of the shaft has also been broken, but it does not appear that it ever rose very much above the arms. From the end of the arm which is now remaining, to the opposite side of the shaft the distance is two feet two inches. The thickness of this cross at the bottom is eight inches, but it is not much more than six inches higher up. It is leaning considerably towards the west.

On the eastern face are the modern letters HC, which I take to mean *Hameldon Cross*, and beneath them the letters DS, while under them again is the date 1854. We shall have observed that on the four barrows, which we have passed on this hill, there were stones set up with the name of each barrow cut on them, and having also the letters DS, and the same date as we find on the cross. These were placed here to mark the boundary of Natsworthy Manor, at the time it belonged to the Duke of Somerset, and the old cross being also a manor boundary, had the letters and dates engraven on it as well. The original purpose of this cross was probably the same as that which it serves at present.

Bennett's Cross. Bidding adieu to this storm-beaten old stone, standing in loneliness on this lofty hill, we shall descend the north-western slope of Hameldon towards Headland Warren house. Some years ago this was a house of entertainment, and was called the Birch Tor Inn. Its position is certainly a very out-of-the-way one for a hostelry, but a number of miners were at one time employed close by here, and from them the landlord derived his custom.

A little on this side of it we shall reach a road which was cut a few years since, and which we shall follow for a short distance, with the house on our left hand and the fine circular enclosure of Grimspound on our right. This road joins the Princetown and Moreton highway some distance further on, but we shall not follow it so far, for, making our way over the hill on our left, we shall reach the latter road a good step to the westward of the point of junction.

As we descend towards it we shall come in sight of a very fine cross, standing at a distance of a few yards from it, and known as Bennett's Cross. It is in a very perfect condition, but is leaning considerably out of the perpendicular. On the west-north-west side it measures six feet in height, but the ground being worn away on the opposite side of it, it is there nearly eight inches higher. The distance to the under surface of the arms is four feet ten inches, and on the side facing the road they are one foot nine inches across. The bottom part of the shaft is much greater in girth than the upper portion, and above the arms it



BENNETT'S CROSS.
HEIGHT—SIX FEET.

tapers slightly, as also do the arms themselves, presenting in this feature a resemblance to the cross we have just examined on Hameldon.

In appearance it is very rugged, no pains having been taken in forming the shaft, this seeming to be little more than the stone left in its natural shape, the short, rudely-sculptured arms, and the small portion of shaft above them, being the only parts on which any attempt at fashioning is displayed.

On the west-north-west face, that which fronts the road, the modern letters *w b* are carved, and stand for "Warren Bounds," the cross forming one of the boundaries of Headland Warren. It is also a boundary mark of the parish of North Bovey, and of the ground over which the rights belonging to Vitifer Mine extend.

Between this cross and the forest bounds, which we shall presently reach, several stones having the same letters on them, and which mark the limits of the warren, may be noticed.

A few loose stones will also be observed near Bennett's Cross, the marks which are set up when the tin-bounds are renewed once a year. These stones are then placed, as the country people have it, "brandis-wise"; that is, in the form of a brandis, the name by which the triangular stands on which the kettles are set on the hearth are called.

It is not improbable that Bennett's Cross was originally erected to mark, as at present, the boundary of the parish of North Bovey, but it may also have been placed at this particular spot in order to serve the additional purpose of a guide to a track over the moor. It is close to the present road,

and this may have been, and I think probably was, formed on the line of an older one. I shall presently notice two other crosses, now no longer existing, which formerly stood close to this road, and seem without doubt to have marked the path across this part of Dartmoor.

The parish of Chagford here joins that of North Bovey, and in both there are several crosses. As, however, none of them, with the exception of Bennett's Cross, are on the moor, they do not come within the scope of these investigations. They have all been noticed by Mr. Ormerod, who has included in his descriptive account, Bennett's Cross and the cross on Hameldon.

Following the Princetown road we soon arrive at Newhouse, or as it is now called, the Warren House Inn. This wayside hostelry is situated just within the forest, a small stream which we cross shortly before reaching it, forming the boundary. Before the present house was built, the old inn stood on the opposite side of the road, but has been pulled down for some years. It was kept at one time by John Roberts, the humorous verse on whose sign may be found in Mrs. Bray's *Borders of the Tamar and the Tavy*.

That writer relates a story of a traveller, who seeking a night's shelter at a cottage on the moor, was shewn to a chamber in which was a large chest. Curiosity prompting him to open it, what was his horror at finding there the corpse of a man! Tales of murdered travellers rose to his mind, and all rest was banished. However, nothing occurred to disturb him, and in the morning as he was pre-

paring to depart, he mentioned the matter to the old woman whose guest he had been, desiring an explanation of so singular a circumstance, when he was told by her son that it was "*only fayther!*" Further enquiry elicited the information that the young man's father had died some days before, and the snow which was only then disappearing had prevented the removal of the corpse for burial, so they had adopted the novel expedient of preserving the body in salt in the old chest.

Mrs. Bray does not state on what part of the moor the house was situated where the traveller met with this singular adventure, only saying that he was journeying to Tavistock, but I have generally heard Newhouse spoken of as the spot (for the story is still related on the moor), although some say that it occurred at a house close by the Rundle Stone, near Princetown. I have been told, that on the morning after the event, the traveller called at Prince Hall and gave an account of the circumstance.

The snow on the moor sometimes lies for a long time, and many instances are related of persons having been lost in it. The late landlord at Widecombe told me that his father and mother were once "snowed up" at Newhouse for more than a week. They had gone there on the occasion of a christening, when the snow falling so heavily, it soon covered the ground to such a depth that it became quite impossible to stir abroad.

It was at Newhouse also, I have been told, that a practical joke was once played upon a farmer by which he was induced to agree to the purchase of

what he imagined to be a flock of sheep, but found he had made a bargain for something very different. The old ballad tells us how Robin Hood, disguised as a butcher, once decoyed the Sheriff of Nottingham to the glades of Sherwood Forest, under pretence of selling him some horned cattle, but which turned out to be the king's deer; in the present instance, however, the supposed sheep were found to be in reality nothing more than granite stones. Near Sittaford Tor, in this vicinity, are two circles known as the Grey Wethers, formed of upright stones, of which several have, unfortunately, been taken away. It seems that the victim of the joke, who was unacquainted with these circles, was offered so many grey wethers at such a price, being told that he might see them if he wished, for they were "up in the new-take, near Sittaford Tor." On the bargain being made, he was filled with chagrin at discovering what it was that he had engaged to purchase.

Cross formerly on Merripit Hill. Leaving Newhouse, we shall resume our walk along the highway, and after passing Statsbrook Bridge, shall ascend Merripit Hill. In July, 1831, Mr. Bray observed a fallen cross here, lying near a circular pit, close to the road. It was nine feet and three quarters long, and its arms were very short, but it was of a regular shape, and better wrought than the crosses generally to be seen on the moor.

Jonas Coaker, who is known as the Dartmoor Poet, remembers when there was a cross on Merri-

pit Hill—without doubt the one seen by Mr. Bray—and says it was removed to Post Bridge, which is about a mile distant, and used as a post for the toll-gate, when it was erected there. A few years since, on the abolition of this gate, the house was pulled down, and the posts removed, but I have not been able to discover the remains of the cross anywhere near.

This instance of wanton spoliation—one among the many which have taken place on the moor—is much to be regretted. Stone is here in abundance, but in order that a little labour might be spared, an ancient relic has been destroyed.

Maggie Cross. On arriving at the moorland settlement of Post Bridge, we shall notice on the right hand side of the road, a gateway, with a cottage, which was intended for a lodge to Standon House, which building, however, was never finished in the manner originally contemplated, but was turned into a labourer's dwelling. Here, close to the lodge gate, Mr. Coaker says that he recollects a cross standing, and it was known as Maggie Cross, but what became of it he is unable to say.

I suspect this cross was also observed by Mr. Bray, on the same occasion that he saw the other on Merripit Hill, for he says he noticed one near the bridge, close beside the road.

I have not been able to learn anything further about it, although I have made many enquiries, and the memory of it, except with one or two of the oldest dwellers in the vicinity, seems to have passed away.

Jonas Coaker, who has lived and worked on the moor all his life, now resides at Ringhill, close to Post Bridge, and is of a very advanced age. Within the last few years a terrible affliction has overtaken him, for he has become totally blind. He has written several pieces descriptive of the moor, as well as a collection of verses entitled *A Sketch of the Several Denominations of Religion in the Christian World*, which was printed at Tavistock in 1871.

Crossing the modern bridge, and noticing just below it the ancient clapper bridge—the finest specimen of these structures now existing on the moor—we shall proceed for a few score yards on the road, when we shall observe a turning on our right hand, where a rough track, traversed by the peat-carts of the farmers, runs up by the side of the river. There are traces of a path on the moor in a line with this road, which I think may, not unlikely, be the remains of an ancient way which it seems probable led from this neighbourhood, by way of Fur Tor, to the northern borders of the moor.

In 1260 Bishop Bronescombe transferred the villages of Balbeny and Pushyll from the parish of Lydford to that of Widecombe, for the convenience of the inhabitants, their parish church being at such a distance from them. Eight miles in fair, and fifteen in foul weather, was the distance it was reckoned to be ; meaning, of course, that in fine weather the moor could be crossed, and a

nearly direct route pursued. Eight miles, however, would hardly be correct, for Lydford Church is much further from the places named than that, but, at all events, the journey would be considerably shortened by crossing the moor, and it is not improbable that this track which we see leading up into the northern quarter of the forest, by the side of the Dart, may have been that which the inhabitants of those villages traversed for a part of the distance, when visiting their mother church.

The old path, on the line of which, as I have observed, it seems to be not unlikely the present Princetown road was formed, very probably joined the Abbots' Way at Jobbers' Cross. In later times some of these tracks were marked by stones with the initial letter of the name of the town or village between which the road lay. Some of these are to be seen on Long Ash Hill above Merivale Bridge, having the letters A on one side of them, and T on the other, denoting that they pointed out the way from Ashburton to Tavistock, and between Moretonhampstead and the moor several others may be observed.

Mr. R. N. Worth in a paper on *Men and Manners in Stuart Plymouth*,¹ gives a number of extracts from the Municipal Records of that borough, among which occurs the following:—

1699—1700.

Item paid towards defraying the charges of putting vpp Morre-stones on Dartmoor in the way leading from Plymouth towards Exon for guideing of Travellers passing that way the sume of £2.

¹ *Trans. Devon Assoc.* Vol. xv., p. 475.

Inscribed Stone at Sticklepath. It will now be necessary to leave this part of the moor and proceed to its northern frontier, in order to pursue some investigations there, so we shall direct our steps to the village of Sticklepath, where we shall find an inscribed stone standing on the very verge of the common, close to the highway from Exeter to Okehampton.

This might almost be considered as belonging to the village rather than to the moor, but as the latter stretches down to the spot where it is situated, I have thought it well to include it among the Dartmoor crosses.

Mr. Ormerod has noticed this stone, which, as he informs us, once fell down when a road was cut near it. It is about five and a half feet in height, and is about a foot square, but the sides of it are not quite of equal size. On one side there is a cross in low relief, and on another some rude tracery is to be observed. It is not easy to distinguish what this is, but I have been able to discern something which I may liken to the outline of the globes of a huge hour-glass. The stone has also been mentioned by Mr. Spence Bate, and by Mr. Thomas Hughes in a paper entitled, *Notes on the Roadside Crosses and other remains in mid-Devonshire*, which appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of September, 1862.

It stands at the entrance of the glen down which courses the river Taw—

“The long brook falling thro’ the clov’n ravine,”
and close beside it is a well, over which is inscribed—

Lady Well. Drink Be Thankful.

**Cross at
Fitz's Well,
Okehampton Park.**

We shall next proceed by the high road towards the town of Okehampton, for the purpose of examining an old cross at Fitz's Well, which is situated on that portion of the moor known as Okehampton Park.

Passing through the town we shall mount the hill, and gaining the commons once more, shall soon come in sight of the well, which is close to the road. A few yards beyond it the summit of the acclivity is reached, which commands a remarkably fine prospect, the range of country to the north being most extensive. Hatherleigh Moor is plainly discernible, and as our eye rests upon it we shall probably call to our recollection the local rhyme, which tells us that

“The people are poor, as Hatherleigh Moor,
And so they have been for ever and ever.”

Whatever truth there may have been in this in times past, we shall, at all events, hope that the first part of the rhyme is no longer in accordance with the facts.

In the valley at our feet lies the town which we have just left, with its church on the hill-side at some little distance from it. We shall also observe on its outskirts the noble mansion of Oaklands embosomed in foliage.

The remains of the castle of Baldwin de Brioniis and the Courtenays, with its grey walls clasped by the creeping ivy, are seen amid the trees, to the left of the town, and though decayed and crumbling, is yet lovely in its loneliness, the charm of old

age endowing it with an attractiveness which fully compensates it for the loss of its former grandeur.

As we turn our faces inooward we shall be struck with the fine appearance of three tors, at no great distance off, in a south-westerly direction. The farthest of these is Yes Tor, which, previous to the results of the recent Ordnance Survey becoming known, was considered to be the highest peak in Devonshire. The middle height is West Mil Tor, and the one nearest us, the lowest of the three, is Row Tor.

The forest boundary lies on the further side of these tors, and is there marked by the ruins of a wall, which was erected several years ago by a native of the Emerald Isle, who was bent on enclosing the commons around here. The workmen he employed were Irishmen, and the moor-men still relate how they used to work among the rocks with no covering whatever to their feet. This is what a Dartmoor man can scarcely understand, for he cannot have a boot too thick. The weight of them, too, he does not seem to mind, and it is very often considerable, for on leaving the shoemaker they are sent to the blacksmith in order that iron heels and plates may be put on, a process which is termed "tackling." The commoners of Okehampton and Belstone, seeing that their rights were being infringed, decided to destroy the wall which the Irishmen had erected, so they accordingly met one day and ranged themselves along by it, and at a given signal they all put their shoulders to it and toppled it over. The ruins of it extend for a considerable distance across this part of the moor.

A farm to the south of where we stand is known

as Moorgate and sometimes as Pothanger ; this is in Okehampton parish, but the boundaries of the parish of Lydford run very near to the enclosures belonging to it. The Belstone tors look remarkably fine from this spot, with the grand old hill of Cosdon rising behind them.

Fitz's Well is a small circular pool, about six feet in diameter. It is made use of by the soldiers who encamp here during the summer for the purpose of artillery practice. A small heap of stones stands on the brink of it, and a ring of stones encircles it.

It is said that a practice formerly existed among the young persons of the neighbourhood of visiting this well on the morning of Easter Day. It probably had some wonderful powers ascribed to it, and those who gathered around its brink very likely did so with the idea of discovering their destiny, for which purpose we find springs visited at certain seasons.

We shall discover the old relic of which we are in search close beside the well, lying on the ground, and shall feel regret that we do not see it standing erect, and marking the site of the spring, as in the old days.

In Bridges' *Account of the Barony and Town of Okehampton* it is stated that according to tradition this cross was brought to the well from St. Michael's Chapel of Halstock, the ruined foundations of which are still to be seen at the eastern end of the park, and a tradition which I have gathered in the neighbourhood states that it was here set up by one Spicer, "a rich gentleman," but for what purpose I was not told. The well is sometimes called

Spicer's Well by the moor-men in the vicinity, but this is evidently only a corrupted form of "Fice's Well," the name Fitz—its proper appellation—being locally pronounced Fize, or Fice, and the tradition would thus point to one of the Fitz family as having here set up the cross.

There is another Fitz's Well on Dartmoor, a little to the northward of Princetown, which tradition affirms was erected by Sir John Fitz, in consequence of his having on an occasion of being "pixy-led" on Dartmoor, found that on tasting the water he was able to discover his way home. A counterpart of this story exists in connection with the well in the park, and was related to me by Miss Luxmore of Okehampton, a lady who finds great delight in antiquarian and legendary lore. According to this a man and his wife were on one occasion journeying towards Okehampton from Halstock, and by some means lost their way. They tried in vain to find the track which would lead them to the town, and at length the female gave it as her opinion that it was utterly useless to continue their search any longer, for they must be certainly under a spell, and consequently all their efforts would be futile. She also asserted that its influence would continue until they discovered water ; so their anxiety now was to light upon a stream or spring, and they accordingly wandered about in search of one. After a time their efforts in this direction were rewarded, for they chanced to come upon the well on the brow of the hill above the town of Okehampton, when, true to the prophecy of the lady, the spell was

broken and their way lay plainly before them, with the town they were desirous of reaching lying snugly in the valley below. This experience must have made some impression on their minds, for the man vowed to set up a cross by the well which had been the means of dispelling the uncanny influence by which he had been controlled. He kept his vow, and caused the granite cross, which we still see there, to be erected in recognition of his thankfulness at escaping from his perplexities, and as a memorial of the magical effect of the water.

That this story is but a variant of the one related of the well on the Blackabrook, near Princetown, there is not much doubt, but as the well in Okehampton Park bears the same name as the other, it is not unlikely that it was in some way connected with the family of Fitz.

John Fitz, the old lawyer, erected a small conduit over a spring at his seat of Fitzford, at Tavistock, and Mr. Bray,¹ referring to this, playfully calls him a water-fancier, and states that he had in his possession the old lawyer's autograph (written John Fytz) on the counterpart lease of a field, which gave him liberty to convey water "in pipes of timber, lead, or otherwise," to his house at Fitzford, and which was dated the 10th of Elizabeth. That Sovereign began to reign in 1558, and, as Mr. Bray points out, the date which is graven on the tablet over the well on the Blackabrook is 1568.²

¹ *Vide* extract from this gentleman's Journal, *Borders of the Tamar and the Tavy*, vol. i. p. 301.

² I have offered some remarks respecting the legibility of these figures on page 110 of the second volume of the *Western Antiquary*

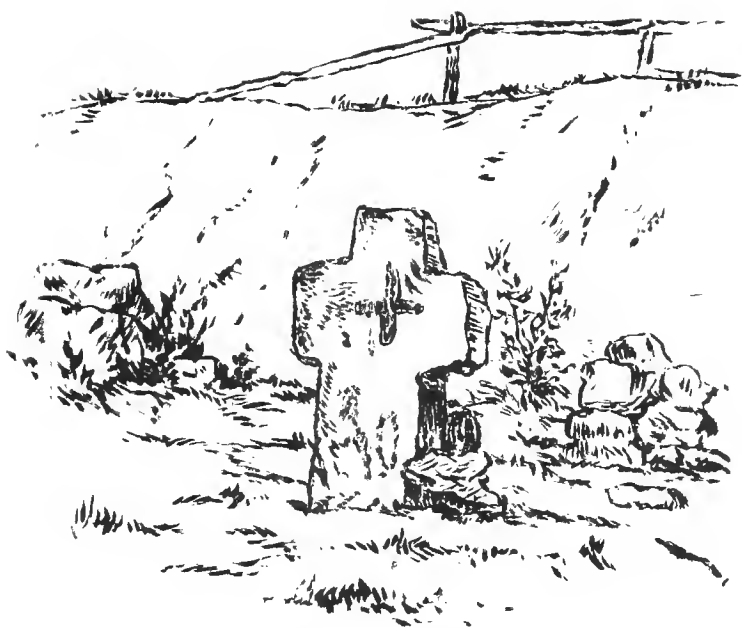
In addition to the date there are also to be seen the initials I.F., and Mr. Bray, in his diary written in 1831, unhesitatingly says that he believed John Fitz to be the constructor of the edifice over the well.

Like so many of the Dartmoor examples the old cross at Fitz's Well is broken, and the lower part of the shaft is not to be found. The portion which remains is very rudely cut, and consists of the upper part of the shaft, and the arms. The height of it is three feet two inches, and across the arms it is one foot eight inches, a small piece being broken off one of them. The shaft below the arms is thirteen inches in breadth, but above them is much narrower, and grows still more so towards the top. This portion rises only six inches above the arms. The depth of the arms is one foot, and from their under surface to what is now the bottom of the shaft it is one foot eight inches.

An incised cross on the centre of the shaft, where it is intersected by the arms, measures eight inches in height and six in width, being about one and a half inches broad. The thickness of this ancient cross varies, but averages about eight or nine inches. Its whole appearance is very rugged.

Our examination of these time-worn relics has now terminated, and we shall bid adieu to the wild steeps of Dartmoor.

As I have already observed, my design has been to include only those crosses which are actually on the moor, therefore those which are to be found in some of the villages bordering on it, and commons near it, have been left unnoticed. An exception to



UPPER PORTION OF CROSS AT FITZ'S WELL.

OKEHAMPTON PARK.

HEIGHT, THREE FEET TWO INCHES.

this was made in the case of the one on Whitchurch Down, as, in addition to the reason which I have given for so doing, it was in a manner rendered necessary in order to trace the probable direction of the Abbots' Way.

The majority of these crosses, as will have been seen, were erected as marks to the paths which were trodden by travellers in the olden days, and as we pursue these paths now, we are carried back in imagination to the time when over them passed the lordly abbot, the knight with his body-guard of servitors, the merchant journeying with his commodities, or bands of pilgrims bound to the shrine of their patron saint. The grey cross on the heath would serve not only to point out their road, but also to keep them in remembrance of One who gave his life that mankind might not perish. Wynken de Worde in 1496 printed a treatise on the ten commandments, in which occurs the following:

For this reason ben Crosses by ye waye, that whan folke passynge see the Crosses, they sholde thynke on Hym that deyed on the Cross, and worshyppe Hym above all thyng.

Here was the emblem of his religion standing before the traveller, and bidding him, by the memories it would call forth, cling to it and shun evil. In ancient Egypt figures of Pascht, the avenger of crime, were set up at the junction of roads to remind the people that guilt would be punished; and while these old crosses would tell the same tale, they would also speak of the reward in store for those who "trust in the Lord, and do good." (Psalm xxxvii, 3).

There are many ancient paths on the moor beside

those which I have noticed, of which the Lich Path is, perhaps, the most important. This was formerly used for the purpose of carrying the dead to the churchyard at Lydford. Lately an enclosure has been formed on Tavistock Common, and has completely blocked this old path. Attention is called to this by the Committee of the Dartmoor Preservation Association in their first report, and it is to be hoped that something will be done towards preventing the encroachments which are taking place on the moor.

There is a track across Staldon Moor, which is no doubt an ancient one. It runs out to Erme Pits, the remains of mining operations quite close to Erme Head, and we may therefore suppose it to be an old miners' path, but it probably also afforded a means of communication with the Abbots' Way, that road passing by Erme Head, as we have seen. Several paths are also shown on the old map of Dartmoor, one of them reaching across the forest, from Merivale Bridge to the neighbourhood of Throwleigh.

The crosses of Dartmoor are, generally speaking, rudely fashioned, and are, without exception, Latin crosses. It is true that a few of them, such as the one near Cadaford Bridge, and Pearl's Cross, now present the Greek form, but this, I think, is, without doubt, owing simply to the shaft having been broken off and lost. Most of those which are standing face east and west, but there are exceptions to this. Siward's Cross is the only one mentioned in any perambulation of the forest, and none but that and Hobajon's Cross are marked on the old map.

The indifference with which our antiquities have been regarded in times past is now happily disappearing, and it is at length recognised that the grey stones of the heath have an interesting story to tell, and one which cannot be lightly passed over by the student of history. There is a charm, too, in antiquarian study, which cannot fail to interest and delight ; as a writer in the *Builder* has well said, "Those who have once caught the true flavour of antiquity, and learned what it is to extract its essence of humanity from the heart of an old stone, can very well afford to laugh in turn at those who take it for an axiom that the dying present is infinitely of more value than 'the dead past.'"

The old crosses of the moor are pleasing objects even to the casual passer-by who takes but slight heed of them, but to the antiquary, and the student of history, the recollections they serve to awaken add to their attractiveness, and endow these weather-stained and rough-hewn stones with a deeper interest and a greater charm.

APPENDIX A.

RESTORATION OF DARTMOOR CROSSES.

This desirable work having been determined upon, I met Mr. Tanner, the Honorary Secretary of the Dartmoor Preservation Association, on Saturday morning, the 8th of August, 1885, in order to commence it. We had a short time previously been over Down Ridge, Terhill, and Fox Tor New-take, and viewed several of the crosses, and decided upon the mode of procedure to be adopted in effecting their restoration. Our place of meeting was the New-take just alluded to, and here everything was brought that was necessary for the end we had in view.

We first set to work on the cross which I have spoken of as having once been removed from Terhill to Sherburton Farm court, and which the Duchy authorities caused to be taken back to the spot from whence it was carried. Having first slightly deepened the socket, we made the stone firm in which it was cut, and then filled the hollow with cement. Then, putting forth all our strength, (we had two workmen and Mr. Tanner's groom

with us) we lifted the cross, setting it into the socket, and had the satisfaction of seeing it standing erect once more. A few days after I went across the moor to Okehampton, and when going up towards Bellaford Tor from Dunnabridge Pound I could look back and see this fine old cross standing out prominently against the sky to the south-west.

This was a good beginning, but the cross which lay beside this one, and which is noticed by me immediately after our examination of those in Fox Tor New-take (page 65) gave us a little more trouble. Its shaft was broken in half, and unfortunately a small portion of it was missing, so that the two parts did not fit properly together at the point of fracture. However, the workmen set about drilling holes in the sides of the shaft to receive the clamps which had been prepared for the purpose, and which, when this task was completed, were fitted into them and firmly wedged and soldered, the cross being then lifted into the cart, for we had determined upon erecting it a few score yards to the westward, keeping it, however, close to the same green path by the side of which it had lain so long. While engaged upon these crosses we had some assistance lent to us by a farmer and moor-man of Hexworthy who happened to be passing that way.

On reaching the spot where we had decided to set up the cross, we placed it upright in the ground, there being no socket stone belonging to it, and filled with cement the interstices formed by the parts of the shaft not fitting closely together.

Time would not permit of our excavating a socket for it in a stone which is firmly imbedded in the ground at the place where we erected it, and which we considered then would most admirably have suited the purpose, but we determined to do so on some future occasion. I have since found, however, that it will be necessary to fix it upon a much higher stone than the one which lies there, as this old cross has already been injured by cattle. One of its arms, across which was a deep crack, was broken off soon after its erection, and it is therefore essential to its preservation that it should be set up at such a height that its head and arms may be in no danger of suffering further mutilation.

After setting up this second cross we proceeded to Fox Tor New-take, which is close at hand, in the upper corner of which is the cross of which I have spoken as having seen sometimes erect in its socket and sometimes lying prone on the ground (page 64). This one is still in a complete state, I am happy to say, so we had simply to raise it, but before fixing it in its place we filled the socket with cement, and then placing the cross into it carefully set the cement around the foot of the shaft. The mutilated cross which I have called attention to as having been found in the New-take wall close by, we did not touch, preferring to allow it to remain until such time as we should take in hand the restoration of the tomb of Childe the Hunter, when the suggestion I have thrown out of fixing it on the pedestal of that monument, in place of the missing one which once surmounted it, and which indeed, I have hazarded the conjecture it may possibly be, will perhaps be acted upon.

We had now set up three of these interesting old guides to the traveller of former days, so we retraced our steps towards Skir Ford, placing the brazier, which had been brought for the purpose of melting the solder, with the fire still burning, in the cart with the implements, in order to have it in readiness for work by the time we reached Down Ridge, which was now to be the scene of our operations. The track by Skir Ford is a very rough one, used by peat carts, and it required some caution in proceeding to keep our brazier from upsetting and scattering the fire in all directions, so as we walked beside the cart one of the workmen steadied it. We were obliged to lift off the crock containing the solder, and allow it to get cold, as we found it was impossible for it to remain on the fire, the jolting of the cart spilling the molten metal at every step the horse took.

On arriving at the cross on Down Ridge, (the one which I have described as being situated by one of the little mounds which are found there), some more drilling and clamping was necessary, for the shaft of this cross, like one of those on Terhill, was broken in half. This cross long lay beside the mound as already stated (page 69), but the upper portion was raised at my request by a farmer of Hexworthy, who, by the way, was the same that rendered us assistance on Terhill—Samuel Smith—and fixed it on the summit of the mound. But the lower portion of it still lay on the ground, and this we now desired to connect to the other. The drills were therefore quickly got out, and the work commenced. The brazier was lifted from the

cart and the solder once more placed on it, and one of our assistants despatched to the Wobrook for water to moisten the cement to be used in neatly covering the fracture, when the cross should be in an upright position. When the drilling was completed the clamps were fitted in, and tightly wedged and soldered. A hole was then dug for it—as unfortunately it possesses no socket stone—and into this the bottom of the shaft was placed and fixed as firmly as possible, and the old cross on Down Ridge was erect once more.¹

It was now decided to cease operations as the afternoon was by this time drawing to a close, and we therefore made our way over the hill to Hexworthy, but not before we had examined the cross which I have described as being nearer Horse Ford. As it consists of little more than the head and arms and a piece of the broken shaft, we came to the conclusion that the best plan to adopt would be to have it fixed on to a new shaft, and sink the latter into a socket to be hollowed out of one of the large blocks which lie around. This task I trust will be soon taken in hand, as also the re-erection of Horn's Cross, which is unfortunately in a sad state of dilapidation ; after which, such of the others as have been shown by my description to need attention will be similarly cared for.

¹ In consequence of no socket stone being provided for it, this cross has since been thrown down. This omission it is hoped soon to remedy.

APPENDIX B.

OLD MAP OF DARTMOOR.

This map, which I have had occasion to notice, is thus described by Mr. Spence Bate, in his interesting examination of it recorded in the fifth volume of the *Transactions* of the Devonshire Association for the advancement of Science, Literature and Art (1872).

"The map which I purpose to describe and analyse is a curious old document. It has been submitted to Mr. Wyld, the well-known map-publisher, who, without having had time to complete his examination, thinks that it may be of the date 1240,¹ or even earlier still. It is drawn upon sheepskin, two being fastened together across the centre. The length of the map is thirty-eight inches, and its breadth is twenty-seven.

"Within the circle which marks the precincts of the Royal forest the map is painted yellow. All beyond is coloured green, except the rivers, which are white, longitudinally striped with blue. Some of the roads are black and white, and others are red and yellow. The churches are all of a reddish brown tint, the outline being definitely drawn in black.

"The points of the compass are shown in yellow

¹ The year of the Dartmoor Forest Perambulation of Henry III.

letters on a large pink or salmon-coloured circle ; and a tablet in the corner is painted yellow, with a white border, adorned with black spots—ornamented on the top with a central scroll, supporting a human face ; and in the same position at the bottom is a similar scroll, but no head. At each end there is a less ornate scroll. The index on the tablet is written in the old English square letter, while the reference letters are in the Roman type. All the names upon the map besides are in the old English character, excepting one word, and that is on the river Tavy. This corresponds in style to that of the writing used in the Perambulation, which is on the back of the map, a copy of which is given below. [This appears in the account from which this extract is made.]

“The names are mostly on labels of painted scrolls. Some few are written without labels, but these are chiefly the names of churches.

“The writing and general work of the map that relates to the forest is much more carefully executed than that beyond the Duchy limits, and some parts appear as if they had been executed after the map had been completed. In many places beneath the paint, lines can be seen which suggest the idea that the map has been corrected.

* * * * *

“The map has the peculiarity of not attempting to be exact ; but is evidently drawn upon a plan which was probably most capable of being understood at the time.

“Distances and form are not attempted with precision ; but only relatively in regard to other

things and places. Yet with all this cumbersome arrangement there is a definite method in the scheme that, with a little study, shows the whole to be wonderfully consistent with the topography of the district.

* * * * *

“The map was evidently projected by persons who had more interest in, or knowledge of, the southern than of the northern district of the county. The plan of the forest is portrayed so near to the top of the map, that there is little room for anything to be inserted above it. On the western side nothing is shown north of Lydford Church; and on the eastern, nothing beyond Brent Church; while from Brent to Lydford most of the important places are delineated.”

APPENDIX C.

PERAMBULATION OF ERME PLAINS.

This ancient custom, the first record of which, as already stated (page 6) is in the year 1603, was carried out for the purpose of maintaining rights of fishery in the river Erme, and pasturage rights on that portion of the moor known as Erme Plains, situated on the left bank of the river, and it was customary to observe it every seven years.

The perambulation was made in July, 1859, and again in 1878, when the present lord of the manor, came into possession of the property. A large number of persons on this occasion set off to the moor to be spectators of the ceremony, though but few went to the furthestmost boundary, which is near the source of the river, at the point where it is joined by Redlake. Here as also at other points on the river, the following proclamation was read, after a net had been cast into the stream and drawn—

MANOR OF ERMINGTON.

All persons whom it may concern take notice, that a perambulation of Erme Plains—on which the tenants of this manor have a right of common pasture—will this day be made, by order, and on

behalf of the lord of the said manor, according to the bounds and limits following; viz., beginning at a small heap of stones near Left Lake Head, at the end of the ridge of stones which proceeds north-west from the Middle borough of Three boroughs, thence by several bound stones and a ridge of stones to outer Whitaburrow, passing a little to the south-west of the cross called Petre's Cross, and so on to Abbots' Way, otherwise Jobbers' Path, and from thence to Red Lake Head, and by the same lake to the river Erme, thence by the said river to the foot of the Left Lake, and thence by the same lake to its head, and so back to the small heap of stones first above-mentioned. Take notice further that, by the same authority, it is also intended to view the said river Erme from its head to the sea, and to fish therein and do other acts in order to assert and maintain the right of fishery, and other rights belonging to the said manor of Ermington. And be it known that the lord of this manor asserts as belonging to in respect thereof a right of free fishery in and throughout the said river, and that it is intended on this occasion to use a net and other means for taking fish therein for his use, in order to maintain such right. And that he also asserts the like right to all wreck and goods found, either jetsam, flotsam, or ligam, within the said river, and from the mouth thereof seawards as far as an umber or tar barrel can be seen.

APPENDIX D.

SIWARD'S CROSS.

We have seen (page 31) that Siward's Cross is mentioned in the deed of Amicia, Countess of Devon, and in the charter of her daughter, Isabella de Fortibus, and is also named as one of the bounds in the Forest Perambulation. In that of the year 1240, the bounds in the quarter of the moor in which the cross is situated are defined as follows :

. . . et inde linealiter usque ad Elysburghe et sic linealiter usque at crucem Sywardi et inde usque ad Ysfother et sic per aliam Ysfother et inde per mediam Myster usque ad Mewyburghe et inde usque ad Lullingesfote . . . &c., &c.

In the perambulation which was made in 1609, the bounds of the western quarter of the forest are specified thus :

. . . and from thence linyallie to Elisboroughe and from thence linyallie to Seaward's Crosse and from thence linyallie to little Hisworthie and so from thence linyallie to another Hisworthie and so from thence linyallie through the midst of Mistorr moore to a rocke called Mistorrpan, and from thence linyallie to Dedlakeheadd w^{ch} they thincke to be the next bound w^{ch} is called in the old records Meuborough, and from thence linyallie northwardes to Lutesborowe, w^{ch} they thincke to be the same that is called in the records Lullingesete, and from thence linyallie to Wester Redlake between w^{ch} said two bounds the wester quarter endeth ; . . . &c., &c.

APPENDIX E.

THE MANOR OF BUCKLAND.

Buckland Abbey was endowed by Amicia its founder with certain manors, amongst which that of Buckland was one. These lands she acquired from her daughter Isabella, the following being the confirmation of the gift, by Edward I. as translated in Mr. J. Brooking Rowe's *Cistercian Houses of Devon*.¹ "Edward, by the grace of God, King of England, Lord of Ireland, and Duke of Aquitaine. To all to whom this writing shall come greeting. Know ye that we have conceded and confirmed to Amicia, Countess of Devon, the manor of Buckland, with the hamlets of Columpton, Walkhampton, and Bickeley, together with all and singular their appurtenances wheresoever situate; To have and to hold to the same Amicia, according to the form and tenor of the deeds which she had from the gift of Isabella de Fortibus, Countess of Albemarle, her daughter; And if it shall happen that the said Amicia should wish to give and to assign the said manor and hamlets with all their appurtenances whatsoever to religious men, and with them to found a new religious house, know ye that we for ourselves and for our heirs, will consider and accept that gift as acceptable provided that the said house, after the decease of the said Amicia, shall be held

¹ *Trans. Devon Assoc.*, vol. vii., p. 352.

of us and our heirs *in capite*. And we faithfully promise to confirm it, when founded or appointed, in pure and perpetual alms. In witness, &c.

"Witness myself at Odiham, 8th day of August, in the 4th year of our reign."

Amicia signed the foundation deed of Buckland Abbey in the eighth year of Edward I., (1280) of which Mr. J. Brooking Rowe has given a translation.¹ The following is an extract from it :

"We found the Abbey, which we desire should be called or entitled St. Benedict's of Buckland, which is in our manor of Buckland, for the perpetual maintenance of abbots and monks of St. Benedict of the Cistercian order there to dwell.

. . . And to this abbey, to Brother Robert, the abbot, and for the support of the monks dwelling in the same house, which have been brought by us from Quarr Abbey, and to their successors, for ever in honour of God and of the most blessed Mary, Mother of God, and the Blessed Benedict ; we give and we grant the same our manor of Boclond, and our manors of Columpton, Bykeley, and Walkampton, with the advowson of the churches, and with the hundred of Rugheberewe, with all service, as well of free-tenants, villeins, as of others belonging to the said hundred, with all their appurtenances, as in demesnes and seigniories, military service, services of freed men, villeins and villanages, with their chattels, suits, reliefs, aids, rents, heriots, heirships, escheats, aids of every kind,

¹ *Cistercian Houses of Devon. Trans. Devon Assoc.*, vol. vii., pp. 352, 353, 354.

meadows, pasturages, pastures, ways, paths, woods, arable land, mills, waters, fisheries, moors, heaths, turbaries, together with all liberties and free customs acquired by us for the same abbey, with all other appurtenances, named and not named, which belong to the said manors and hundred, or which can in any way belong by whatever name they may be known, without any reservation by us, or by our heirs, and we have confirmed the same by this present charter to the said abbot and convent and their successors, to be held in free and full alms for ever, quietly, well and peaceably for ever, without any contradiction or impediment by us or our heirs, &c., &c."

APPENDIX F.

DARTMOOR PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION.

The following are the objects which this Association was formed to carry out.

1. "To preserve rights of way, pasturage, and blackwood on the Forest and the contiguous Commons, as by ancient usage and custom prescribed.

2. "To prevent the enclosure of open ground by local landowners as against the rights of Venville Owners and Commoners. To protect and (if needs be) to take action against proposed enclosures of Commons and portions of the Forest, and against recent enclosures overriding any rights of Venville Owners or Commoners.

3. "To protect and, as far as possible, preserve the existing Cromlechs, Cairns, Circles, Kistvaens, Tors, and landmarks of historic interest, and to prevent the removal of granite from the foot of tors."

"The moor has been divided into five districts, with centres at Okehampton, Tavistock, Plympton, Buckfastleigh, and Widecombe. Each centre is represented on the Committee, and any matter of importance addressed to the representative of any district will from time to time, be brought before the General Committee for action to be taken thereon if thought fit."

The Dartmoor Preservation Association was not formed any too soon. Many enclosures have been

made on the moor to the detriment of those who have rights of common upon it, and a society that will take cognizance of such matters and protect the weak against the strong is deserving of all support. In the *Antiquary*, vol. ii., p. 271, and also in the *Western Antiquary*, vol. i., p. 94, I called attention to several instances of destruction among the antiquities of Dartmoor, a practice which, now that this Association exists, I trust will be finally checked. To preserve the old monuments, and to maintain the Commoner's rights, are laudable objects, and will commend themselves to all true lovers of the moor.

ADDENDA.

Modern Dartmoor Crosses.

An addition has lately been made to the crosses of Dartmoor, Mr. Widgery, the well-known artist, having caused one to be erected on Bra Tor, near Lydford, in commemoration of the Jubilee year of Her Majesty's reign ; and ere long the moor will possess yet another of these objects, for in order to mark a spot on Hameldon, known as Two Crosses, one of the boundary points of the manor of Dunstone, it is the intention of Mr. Robert Dymond to set up a cross there. Having regard to the name of the site, it is proposed that this cross should have two pairs of arms.

Ouldsbroom Cross (p. 80). The following particulars respecting Ouldsbroom Cross have been furnished me by the gentleman who first called my attention to it, and who gathered them from William French, of the Higher Lodge, Spitchwick. French, who is now seventy-five years of age, states that the cross was brought away from Ouldsbroom more than sixty years ago, by Thomas Hext, at that time the occupier of Town Farm, with whom he was then parish apprentice. It was conveyed to its present position at the farm on a slide drawn by four bullocks. The arms were knocked off after its arrival there, on their being found to interfere with the purpose to which it was put.

Childe's Tomb. While these sheets were passing through the press, the restoration of Childe's Tomb was commenced, and very shortly will be brought to completion. A new cross will surmount the old monument.

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